

# STARS AND STRIPES®



**Salsa dancing gains unlikely following in Japan**  
Scene magazine



**2004 a banner year in local, national sports**  
Back page, 43-46

Volume 63, No. 258 © SS 2005 J

SATURDAY • SUNDAY, JANUARY 1-2, 2005

Red Sox's Johnny Damon, right, and Doug Mientkiewicz  
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## 5 million in Asia said to lack life's basics

\$40M needed for tsunami survivors; death toll tops 117,000 Pages 8-11

### Calm moment in the midst of a storm



U.S. Army Sgt. Mark Cox of the 101st Airborne Division and his wife, Dawn, from Crawfordsville, Ind., laugh as they hug inside a hangar after Cox returned to Fort Campbell, Ky., from Iraq, on Jan. 7.

■ War in Iraq voted No. 2 news story of 2004

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■ The military endures a grueling 2004

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**To our readers:**  
Stars and Stripes will not be published on Jan. 2, 2005. Look for it again on Jan. 3.



STARS & STRIPES  
Your Hometown NewspaperCOMING  
SOON

Scene on Sunday

Great Wall  
still a mystery

Cate Blanchett

## Sunday

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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

## States

**Schiavo right-to-die case:** A Tampa, Fla., appeals court Wednesday denied a request from the parents of a severely brain-damaged woman for a new trial in the long-running right-to-die case, according to the court clerk's office.

The 2nd District Court of Appeal issued the denial without a written opinion.

Attorney George Felos said once the court issues a formal decision in 15 days, Michael Schiavo may again be able to order the removal of the feeding tube that helps keep his 41-year-old wife alive.

Terry Schiavo collapsed from a chemical imbalance due to an eating disorder 14 years ago and left no written end-of-life directive.

**Hospital in crisis:** The Martin Luther King Jr./Drew Medical Center of Los Angeles failed an inspection by federal regulators this week, moving the beleaguered public hospital closer to losing \$200 million in federal funding.

Barring a last-minute change, the Los Angeles County-owned hospital just south of Watts is tentatively slated to lose its federal money Jan. 19, county health officials wrote in a memo late Wednesday to the county Board of Supervisors. Without that funding, King/Drew could be forced to close, imperiling the largely poor black and Hispanic population it serves, officials have said.

King/Drew had pleaded to make changes earlier this month after the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services faulted it for allowing county police officers to use Taser stun guns to subdue psychiatric patients.

## Alabama Ten Commandments case:

Former Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore acknowledges having feelings of "doubt and fear" on the night of July 31, 2001, as he sat alone in his state court-house office awaiting delivery of a Ten Commandments monument he wanted to install in the rotunda.

In a new book, "So Help Me God," Moore describes that night as the completion of a lifelong mission to use his position as the state's highest judge to publicly display a symbol of his religion.

It was also the beginning of a two-year fight that ended with Moore becoming the first chief justice in Alabama's history to be expelled from office after he refused a federal judge's order to remove the monument from the judicial building's rotunda.



**Wash. governor's race:** Republican gubernatorial candidate Dino Rossi calls for a revote in the hotly contested Washington state governor's race at his campaign headquarters in Bellevue. Joining Rossi are, from left, his wife, Terry, and children Julianna, 14; Joseph, 8; Jake, 10; and Jillian, 4. Democrat Christine Gregoire was declared governor-elect Thursday — by 129 votes over Rossi — but Rossi has refused to concede. Secretary of State Sam Reed, a Republican, certified Gregoire as the winner of the closest governor's race in state history.

## World

**Russian school attack:** Only 17 of 31 attackers who seized a school in southern Russia four months ago have been identified, Deputy Prosecutor General Nikolai Shepel said Thursday.

He said that documents had been sent to Interpol to help identify two of the attackers, "presumably coming from Middle East countries," the Interfax news agency reported.

The Sept. 13 terrorist raid on a school in the town of Beslan ended in a hail of gunfire and explosions, killing more than 330 hostages, nearly half of them children.

**Berlusconi's hair:** Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi acknowledged Thursday that he had a hair transplant, saying his hair is "growing wonderfully" and that cosmetic surgery is a duty for those who can afford it. Italian media in August were abuzz with speculation that the image-conscious, balding leader might have had a hair transplant.

Berlusconi, 68, had cosmetic surgery around his eyes during the Christmas holidays last year. He confirmed the operation about a month later, specifying that it had only been around his eyes.

**Gay marriage in Spain:** Spain's Socialist government on Friday approved a bill to le-

galize same-sex marriages, putting this predominantly Roman Catholic country on course to become only the third country to recognize gay marriages.

The bill was approved at a Cabinet meeting and is expected to be presented to Parliament in February for debate.

"The right to marry is a right for everyone, without distinction. It cannot be understood as a privilege," Deputy Prime Minister Maria Teresa Fernandez de la Vega told a press conference after the Cabinet meeting.

Under the bill, homosexuals will be allowed to adopt children and couples of the same sex will be able to inherit from one another as well as receive retirement benefits from their working spouses in the same way in which heterosexual married couples do now.

**Ukraine election:** Ukraine's election commission rejected the entire appeal by Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich against results showing he lost this week's repeat running, saying he had not proved there were any mass violations, a commission member said.

Yanukovich now has the option of appealing to the Supreme Court.

The prime minister has refused to accept results showing a solid victory for Western-leaning opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko in Sunday's vote.

Stories and photo from wire services

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## The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — A month-by-month chronology of notable news in 2004, including the AP's Top Ten stories of the year (noted in bold), AP's list was compiled in mid-December, before the deadly tsunami in Asia.

## January

Jan. 1 — The first commercial flight between India and Pakistan in two years arrives in New Delhi, India.

Jan. 3 — NASA's Mars rover, Spirit, touches down on Mars. A Flash Airlines charter full of French tourists returning home from Egyptian vacations crashes into the Red Sea, killing all 148 people aboard.

Jan. 4 — Georgians overwhelmingly elect Mikhail Saakashvili as president, two months after he led protests that forced Eduard Shevardnadze to step down.

Jan. 5 — China confirms its first SARS case since an outbreak of the disease was contained in July 2003 and orders the slaughter of some 10,000 civet cats and related species.

Jan. 8 — A U.S. Black Hawk Medevac helicopter crashes near Fallujah, Iraq, killing all nine soldiers aboard. Libya agrees to compensate family members of victims of a 1989 bombing of a French UTA passenger plane over the Niger desert that killed 170 people.

Jan. 14 — Libya has ratified the nuclear test ban treaty, a Vienna-based U.N. agency announces.

Jan. 17 — A roadside bomb north of Baghdad kills three U.S. soldiers and two Iraqi civil defense troops, raising the U.S. death toll since the beginning of military operations in Iraq to 500.

Iraq was AP's number 2 story of the year. Throughout 2004, Iraq was a striking mix of bloody turmoil and tantalizing promise. Anti-American insurgents wreaked havoc with car bombings and videotaped beatings of hostages; the death toll for U.S. military forces passed 1,200, and the toll of Iraqi civilians was many times higher. Yet Iraq's interim leaders doggedly proceeded with plans for national elections early in the new year.

Jan. 18 — A suicide truck bombing outside the headquarters of the U.S.-led coalition in Baghdad kills at least 31 people and injures more than 60 in the deadliest attack in the Iraqi capital since Saddam Hussein's capture in December.

Jan. 24 — NASA's Opportunity rover lands on Mars, arriving at the Red Planet exactly three weeks after its identical twin landed.

Jan. 25 — Mikhail Saakashvili is inaugurated as Georgia's president.

Jan. 28 — A judge clears British Prime Minister Tony Blair's administration of any direct involvement in the suicide of a government expert on Iraq weapons.

## February

Feb. 1 — Twin suicide bombers kill 109 people at two Kurdish parties in Iraq, Iraq, a stampede during a storming rally at the annual Muslim pilgrimage in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, kills at least 251 worshippers.

Feb. 2 — Israel kills the leader of Islamic Jihad and three other militants in a Gaza raid; an 11-story apartment building collapses in Konya, Turkey, killing 69 people.

Feb. 5 — Pakistan's president pardons the country's top nuclear scientist for leaking weapons technology to Iran, Libya and North Korea.

Feb. 6 — An explosion rips through a Moscow subway car during rush hour, killing 41 people and wounding more than 100.

Feb. 7 — Sri Lanka's President Chandrika Kumaratunga dissolves Parliament and calls April 2 elections, more than three years ahead of schedule.

Feb. 9 — Anti-government rebels take control of at least nine towns in western Iraq as the death toll in the violent uprising rises to at least 40.

Feb. 10 — A truck bomb outside a police station in Iskandariyah, Iraq, kills 53 people; an Iranian plane crashes in the United Arab Emirates, killing at least 43 people.

Feb. 11 — A car bomb at an army recruiting center in Baghdad kills 47.

Feb. 12 — In an open challenge to California law, San Francisco authorizes perform same-sex weddings and issues a stack of marriage licenses to gay and lesbian couples.

Gay marriage was AP's number 6 story of the year. From coast to coast, gay marriage was a volatile topic. Massachusetts became the first state to have legal, same-sex weddings, and local officials in sever-

al places — including San Francisco and Portland, Ore. — also wed gay and lesbian couples before courts intervened. However, each time the issue reached the ballot — in 13 states in all — voters decisively approved constitutional amendments banning gay marriage.

Feb. 15 — A shopping mall fire kills at least 93 people in northeastern China.

Feb. 22 — Rebels capture Haiti's second-largest city, claiming Cap-Haitien as their biggest prize in a two-week uprising that has driven government forces from half the country.

Feb. 25 — The Palestinians open their case against Israel's West Bank barrier in the world court.

Feb. 24 — Russian President Vladimir Putin dismisses his prime minister and all other Cabinet ministers in preparation for March's presidential vote; a 6.5-magnitude earthquake devastates an isolated region of northern Morocco, killing more than 560 people.

Feb. 26 — Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski is killed in a plane crash in southern Bosnia.

Feb. 29 — Haiti's President Jean-Bertrand Aristide resigns and goes into exile in the Central African Republic.



Rescue workers line up bodies beside a bomb-damaged passenger train at Atotcha station following a number of explosions on trains in Baghdad on March 11. The toll from the bombings was 190 dead and more than 1,400 injured.

**Pfc. Michael Birdsong**, from Gravel Ridge, Ark., sights his rifle on a nearby building to provide security while his squad members in the back of a Humvee behind him prepare to depart after the patrol and search of a partially occupied residential neighborhood, in Ramadi, Iraq, on Dec. 16. Throughout 2004, Iraq was a striking mix of bloody turmoil and tantalizing promise for U.S. troops as anti-American insurgents wreaked havoc, yet the country's leaders proceeded with plans for national elections next year. The death toll for U.S. military forces passed 1,300.

AP

## March

March 1 — Rebels roll into Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, and are met by hundreds of residents cheering the ouster of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

March 2 — A series of coordinated blasts kills 181 people at shrines in Karbala and Baghdad as thousands of Shiite Muslim pilgrims gather for a religious festival.

March 4 — Moumiel el Motassadeq, a Moroccan and the only person in the world convicted in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, wins a retrial in a German appeals court; Horst Koeller, head of the International Monetary Fund, announces his resignation to become a candidate for the German presidency.

March 5 — Martha Stewart, the American celebrity housewife, is convicted of obstructing justice and lying to the government about a stock sale.

March 7 — Fourteen Palestinians are killed in the deadliest Israeli raid in Gaza in 17 months.

March 8 — Gerard Latorre, a former U.N. official, becomes Haiti's interim prime minister.

March 11 — Ten bombs explode in quick succession across the combat-ravaged city of Madrid, Spain, killing 190 people and wounding more than 1,400.

The Madrid bombings were AP's number 10 story of the year. Soon after the attack, which was blamed on Islamic militants, angry voters ousted Spain's pro-American conservative government in favor of the Socialist Party, which promptly withdrew Spanish troops from Iraq.

March 12 — South Korea's parliament impeaches President Roh Moo-hyun on charges of illegal wiretapping and incompetence, stripping him of his constitutional powers.

March 14 — The opposition Socialist party secures a dramatic upset win in Spain's general election, ousting conservatives stung by charges they provoked the Madrid terror bombings by supporting the U.S.-led war in Iraq and making Spain a target for al-Qaeda. Russian President Vladimir Putin wins a second term.

March 15 — Former Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide returns to the Caribbean from African exile after winning temporary asylum in Jamaica; a drive-by shooting in Miami, Fla., kills four American missionaries.

March 16 — China declares victory in its fight against bird flu, saying it has "stamped out" all its known cases, while a factory worker in Thailand becomes Asia's 23rd victim of the virus.

March 17 — Haiti's new U.S.-backed Cabinet takes office without a single member of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's party.

March 18 — NATO sends U.S. and Italian reinforcements to Kosovo after fighting between Serbs and ethnic Albanians kills 22 people and wounds hundreds — the worst violence since the province's war five years ago.

March 19 — A judge in Spain juries the main suspect in the Madrid bombings and four alleged accomplices in terrorism charges.

March 20 — Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian narrowly wins re-election.

March 20 — The U.S. military charges six soldiers with abusing inmates at Abu Ghraib prison on the western outskirts of Baghdad.

The Abu Ghraib scandal, in which photographs came to light showing U.S. military guards at the Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad forcing naked Iraqi detainees to pose in humiliating positions, was AP's number four story of the year. Prosecutions ensued, and the scandal fueled anti-American sentiment in the Muslim world.

March 22 — Intel tells Hamas boulder Ahmed Yassin in a helicopter missile strike outside a Gaza City mosque; incumbent Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is sworn in as Malaysia's prime minister after a landslide election victory.

March 24 — The European Union slaps Microsoft Corp. with a \$1-billion fine for exercising a monopoly with its Windows software and orders sanctions that go well beyond an U.S. antitrust settlement.

March 25 — Rebels and the main opposition party pull out of Ivory Coast's power-sharing government after 25 people die in deadly clashes between security forces and opposition supporters.

March 31 — Wounded soldiers drag the burned, mutilated bodies of four American contractors through Fallujah, Iraq, and string two of them up from a bridge after rebels ambush their SUVs.

March 31 — The world court rules that the United States has violated the rights of 51 Mexicans on death row to receive diplomatic help, and orders Washington to review their cases.



YEAR, FROM PAGE 3

April

April 2 — Seven Eastern European countries — Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Lithuania, Slovenia, Latvia and Estonia — join NATO in the biggest expansion of the alliance in its 55-year history; the political alliance led by President Chirakia Kucumarsingh were the largest number of seats in Sri Lanka's parliamentary elections; the U.N. Security Council throws its weight behind talks aimed at halting a year-old conflict in western Sudan, calling on the government and opposition groups to fight for humanitarian reasons and to settle their dispute politically. The conflict in the Darfur region has driven hundreds of thousands of people from their homes in a campaign one U.N. official says is "ethnic cleansing."

April 3 — Surrounded by police, three suspects in the Madrid railway bombings blow themselves up in a building outside Madrid, killing one special forces agent and wounding 11 police officers.

April 4 — The American military dethroned the Iraqis in the first of several offensives to take control of the country's oil-rich regions.

April 5 — Flood foods kill at least 34 in northern Mexico; Sri Lanka's president-elect's veteran politician Mahinda Rajapaksa is sworn in as prime minister; the U.S. military says it is moving to take control of the country's oil-rich regions.

April 6 — China issues a major ruling on how Hong Kong chooses its leaders, saying the territory must submit proposed political reforms to Beijing for approval; Jordan's military court convicts eight Muslim militants and sentences them to death for the 2002 killing of a U.S. official in a terror conspiracy linked to al-Qaida; lawmakers out of Lithuania's scandal-ridden parliament endorse the law for abuse of office, ending the country's worst political crisis since it gained independence from Moscow.

April 7 — The only Sept. 11, 2001, suspect ever convicted is freed after a Hamburg, Germany, court rules that the evidence is too weak to hold him pending a retrial.

April 8 — Iraq insurgents seize a dozen foreign hostages in Iraq, threatening to burn three Japanese captives alive if Japan does not withdraw its troops.

April 9 — About 40 foreign hostages of 12 countries are being held by Iraq insurgents, a coalition spokesman reports.

April 14 — President Bush endorses Israel Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to pull out of Gaza and parts of the West Bank as "historic and courageous actions"; the Italian government confirms the execution of an Italian hostage by its Iraqi abductors; two more Japanese are abducted in Iraq.

April 15 — Iraq militants free three Japanese hostages after holding them about a week.

April 17 — Israel assassinate Hamas leader Abdel Aziz Rantawi in a missile strike; his car; Iraq insurgents free two Japanese hostages held on April 14.

April 19 — Spain's Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero orders a withdrawal of Spanish troops from Iraq, killing a campaign pledge and trying to calm his uneasy nation after bombings that killed 190 people in a Madrid, Spain, attack.

April 19 — A Russian rocket roars into space carrying an American, a Russian and a Dutch man to the international space station on the first major mission since the halt of the U.S. shuttle program.

April 20 — NASA launches a \$750 million satellite conceived during the space administration to test two of Albert Einstein's fundamental predictions about the universe.

April 21 — Five suicide attackers detonate car bombs against police buildings in Beirut, Iraq, killing 74 people and wounding 160; a Guatemalan man, described by U.S. authorities as Central America's most-wanted drug smuggler, is arrested in Mexico; a U.S. military spokesman says the U.S. is providing its support for the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq; President Bush eases economic sanctions and clears the way for American companies to do business in Iraq.

April 24 — An explosion at a railway station in Ryugyong, North Korea, kills 161 people, injures 1,300 and destroys 8,100 homes.

April 25 — Denmark's defense minister, Svend Auken Jensen, resigns as the U.S. questions military aid to Iraq; the U.S. military says it is providing its support for the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq; President Bush eases economic sanctions and clears the way for American companies to do business in Iraq.

April 24 — Suicide bomb attacks against Iraqi oil facilities in the Persian Gulf, killing three Americans and disabling Iraq's biggest terminal for more than 24 hours.

April 26 — Mainland China rules Hong Kong won't have direct elections for its next leader, or for all its lawmakers, in 2008; U.S. soldiers roll into a base in the Shiite holy city of Najaf to repel withdrawing Spanish troops; a Jordanian militant with links to al-Qaida claims responsibility for the April 24 suicide bomb attacks against Persian Gulf oil terminals.

April 28 — A Moroccan suspect in connection with the Madrid train bombings in May is indicted in Madrid, Spain, on charges of helping plan the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks; an al-Qaida spokesman says the group is planning to attack the U.S. Embassy in Rome by poisoning its water supply.

April 30 — Ten countries — Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Cyprus and Malta — join the European Union in a historic enlargement; a U.S. federal appeals court rules that retired astronaut John Demjanuk was a Nazi guard, and is not eligible to obtain U.S. citizenship.

May

May 2 — Martin Torrijos, the son of a former dictator, wins Panama's first presidential vote since the handover of the Panama Canal in December 1999; Poland's Prime Minister Leszek Miller steps down as his government is paralyzed by unpopularity, and is succeeded by former finance minister Marek Belka.

May 3 — Picasso's 1905 painting "Boy with a Pipe" sells for \$104 million at Sotheby's in New York, breaking the record for an auctioned painting.

May 4 — An al-Qaida spokesman says the group is planning to attack the U.S. Embassy in Rome by poisoning its water supply.

May 5 — A federal judge in London orders the release of a Pakistani man's case against Paolo Lazzarino, a former American prime minister charged with money laundering, wire fraud and extortion.

May 5 — U.S. Army Pfc. Lynndee England is shown in photographs smiling and pointing at naked Iraq prisoners in the Abu Ghraib prison, is charged by the military with assaulting the detainees and conspiring to mistreat them. England is the seventh soldier from the U.S. military to be charged in the case.

May 6 — Insurgents bomb an oil pipeline in southern Iraq, setting off a fire and causing daily Iraq oil exports to drop by 100,000 barrels per day.

May 6 — A bomb destroys the VIP section at a stadium during a Victory Day celebration in the Chechen capital of Grozny, killing 24 people, including the province's president Akhmad Kadyrov.

May 7 — A Muslim mob kills two Christians in the streets of Karo, Nigeria, as security forces struggle to quell a two-day rampage to avenge the massacre of hundreds of Nigerian Muslims.



gay couple Stuart Gaffney, left, and John Lewis protest in front of the California Supreme Court on Aug. 12 in San Francisco. The debate over whether same-sex couples are entitled to the right to marry was a volatile topic throughout the year. However, each time the issue reached a ballot — in 13 states in all — voters decisively approved constitutional amendments banning gay marriage.

May 13 — Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee resigns after his governing coalition loses Parliament elections, ending his nearly six years in power. Libya announces its decision to halt military trade with North Korea, Syria and Iran.

May 14 — A South Korean court reinstates impeached President Roh Moo-hyun and the Daily Mirror apologizes for publishing false photographs of alleged abuse of Iraqi prisoners by British forces, and the editor steps down.

May 15 — The United States announces a new initiative to speed up the approval process for new combination AIDS drugs that will bring cheap, easy-to-use treatment to millions of people in Africa and the Caribbean.

May 17 — Abdel-Zahraa Osman, also known as Izzadine Saleem, the head of the Iraqi Governing Council, is killed in a suicide car bomb blast in Baghdad.

May 19 — Manmohan Singh, a 71-year-old tobacco lobbyist, is named India's next prime minister by the president.

May 23 — A ferry carrying about 250 passengers capsizes during a storm in eastern Bangladesh, killing at least 74 people; the vaunted roof of a new terminal at Paris' Charles de Gaulle airport crumbles crashing down, killing four people; Horst Kohler, a former head of the International Monetary Fund, is elected Germany's ninth president.

May 24 — Flooding of rain-swollen rivers in the Dominican Republic and Haiti kills more than 1,400 people.

May 25 — A U.S. government and rebels sign key agreements, resolving the last remaining issues needed to end Africa's longest-running war.

May 26 — A Hamas al-Mujahideen, a Muslim cleric, is killed in a London mosque attack; Sept. 11 suspect Zacarias Moussaoui and would-be shoe bomber Richard Reid, is arrested in London and accused of trying to blow up a transatlantic flight.

May 27 — Iraqi Governing Council chooses Jalal Alawi as prime minister of the country's interim government.

May 28 — A shooting rampage by al-Qaida militants at an expatriate housing complex in Khobar, Saudi Arabia's oil hub, kills 22 people, mostly foreign oil industry workers.

June 3 — Quoted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide leaves Kingston, Jamaica, for South Africa, saying it will be his "temporary home" until he can return to Haiti.

June

June 1 — Ghazi Mashal Ali al-Yawer, a powerful Sunni Muslim tribal leader and critic of the U.S.-led invasion, is named president of Iraq's incoming government.

June 2 — Three foreign aid workers and two Afghans are shot and killed in an ambush in northern Afghanistan in an attack claimed by insurgent Taliban militants.

June 3 — CIA Director George Tenet argues that a controversy over intelligence lapses about suspected weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

June 5 — Former President Ronald Reagan, whose struggle with Alzheimer's disease had kept him out of the public eye for a decade, dies at his home in California; the U.S. military says it is planning to attack the U.S. Embassy in Rome by poisoning its water supply.

June 6 — An Irish cameraman working for the British Broadcasting Corp. is killed in a shooting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

June 8 — An American who worked for a U.S. defense contractor is shot and killed in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, the second deadly shooting of a Westerner in the kingdom in three days.

June 10 — Content-wad, four-day voting for the European Parliament begins with some 14,070 candidates in 25 national elections for 732 seats.

June 14 — A car bomb explodes during rush hour on a busy street in Baghdad, killing 12 people — five of them foreigners working to rebuild Iraq's power plants.

June 15 — Israel's attorney general drops a complaint case against Ariel Sharon, ending months of uncertainty over the prime minister's political future and boosting chances for an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

June 16 — The Independent commission investigating the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks says no evidence exists that al-Qaida had strong ties to Saddam Hussein.

The release of the commission's report was AP's number five story of the year. After painstaking research and dramatic public hearings, the commission formed to investigate the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, issued its report. It concluded that America's leaders failed to grasp the gravity of terrorist threats before Sept. 11 and recommended creation of a national intelligence director to oversee civilian and military intelligence agencies.

June 17 — A car bomb explodes outside the Iraqi civil defense recruiting center, killing at least 35 people and wounding 136.

June 18 — An al-Qaida group says it killed American hostage Paul M. Johnson Jr., and posts photos on the Internet showing his body and severed head, a noed plane and a severed head.

June 19 — A U.S. military plane, then glides back to Earth for an unpowered landing.

June 21 — Iran seizes three British military patrol boats in the Shatt-al-Arab waterway, Iraq's main link with the Gulf, and detains eight armed crewmen for entering Iranian territorial waters.

June 23 — Taliban fighters open up to 16 miles after learning that they have registered for Afghanistan's U.S.-backed national elections, the deadliest attack yet in a campaign aimed at sabotaging the nation's first free vote.

June 27 — Boris Yeltsin, a reformist politician, detains a national ally of Slobodan Milosevic in Serbia's run-off presidential election.

June 28 — The U.S.-led coalition transfers sovereignty to an interim Iraqi government; Canada's Liberal Party loses its outright control of Parliament but wins the largest share of seats to lead the country's first minority government in 25 years.

June 30 — U.N. helicopter crashes in Sierra Leone, killing all 24 peacekeepers, aid workers and others on board.

June 30 — The Iraqi take legal custody of Saddam Hussein and 11 of his top lieutenants, a first step toward the ousted dictator's expected trial for crimes against humanity; after nearly seven years of travel, the international Cassini spacecraft enters orbit around Saturn.

July

July 1 — Saddam Hussein scoffs in Iraq's court at charges of war crimes and mass killings, making a defiant first public appearance since being hauled down seven months ago.

July 2 — The U.S. military says it is providing its support for the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq; President Bush eases economic sanctions and clears the way for American companies to do business in Iraq.

July 4 — A 20-ton slab of granite is laid at the World Trade Center site as the cornerstone of the skyscraper that will replace the destroyed towers; saboteurs blast a strategic crude oil pipeline that runs from Iraq to the Persian Gulf.

July 7 — A Yemeni security court charges six Yemenis in the planning of the Oct. 12, 2000, bombing of the USS Cole.

July 8 — A Swedish citizen held for more than two years by the United States in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, is released; a Swedish appeals court throws out the conviction of a Swedish man charged with plotting to assassinate Minister Arne Lindh, ruling that Mijailo Milobavich should receive treatment for his "significant psychiatric problems."

July 9 — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's Cabinet resigns and the longtime leader appoints a relative outsider, Ahmed Nazif, as prime minister, further consolidating his power; the highest U.N. court rules that Israel's planned 42-mile-long barrier in the West Bank violates international law and urges the United Nations to take action to stop its construction.

July 12 — France and Iraq restore diplomatic relations that were severed 13 years ago during the Gulf War.

July 13 — A disabled militant who is billed as a close confidant to Osama bin Laden and suspected of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, is the most important figure to turn himself in so far.

July 14 — A suicide attacker detonates a massive car bomb at a checkpoint in Baghdad, killing 11 people and wounding 40.

July 16 — American domestic entrepreneur Martha Stewart is handed a prison term for lying to investigators about her involvement in a homecoming by a U.S. District Court for lying about a stock sale.

July 19 — A 182-carat diamond that a young miner dug up in southeast Guinea is sold for \$8.6 million to a U.S. jeweler in the vaults of the Federal Reserve Bank.

July 20 — A Filipino truck driver is freed by Iraq insurgents a day after the Philippines withdrew its last troops; the U.N. General Assembly overwhelmingly adopts a resolution demanding that Israel comply with a world court decision and tear down the barrier it is building to seal off the West Bank.

July 22 — A new high-speed passenger train derails in southwestern Turkey, killing 23 people and injuring 81.

July 23 — A U.S. military plane is shot down by a Syrian diplomat hostage and demand his country restore any plans it has to send security experts to Iraq.

July 25 — Lance Armstrong wins a record sixth Tour de France; Pakistan arrests Ahmed Khalifa Ghailani, a Tanzanian al-Qaida suspect wanted by the United States in the 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Congo and Kenya.

July 26 — Mohammed Mandooh Helmi Qutbi, an Egyptian diplomat held hostage by militants in Iraq for three days, is released after successful negotiations.

July 27 — Four French detainees held by U.S. authorities for more than two years are released; the U.S. military says it is planning to attack the U.S. Embassy in Rome by poisoning its water supply.

July 28 — A car bomb explodes outside a police station used as a recruiting center in Baguiba, Iraq, killing 70 Iraqis and wounding more than 50.



## YEAR, FROM PAGE 4

## August

Aug. 1 — A supermarket fire on the outskirts of Ansonia, Paraguay, kills more than 400 people.

Aug. 3 — The Statue of Liberty pedestal in New York City responds to the public for the first time since the 9/11 attacks; Palestinian anarchists arrest two al-Qaida terrorists, one with a multimillion-dollar U.S. bounty on his head.

Aug. 5 — Two-year-old twins from the Philippines born with the tops of their heads fused together are separated at Montefiore Medical Center in New York City.

Aug. 9 — Oklahoma City bombing conspirator Terry Nichols is sentenced to life without the possibility of parole for his role in the worst act of domestic terrorism in U.S. history.

Aug. 10 — The retrial of Mouammar al-Qaddafi, after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror suspect ever convicted, opens in Hamburg, Germany.

Aug. 12 — New Jersey Gov. James E. McGreevey announces his resignation, acknowledging that he had an extramarital affair with a man.

Aug. 13 — Hindu murderers raid a U.N. refugee camp in western Burundi, shooting and hacking at least 163 Congolese Tutsis to death.

Aug. 15 — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez survives a referendum to oust him; Hurricane Charley leaves 31 people dead in Florida and causes \$7.4 billion insured damage.

Aug. 23 — Armed forces steal the Edward Munch masterpiece "The Scream" and a second Munch painting, "Madonna," from the Danish museum in Oslo, Norway.

Aug. 24 — Uzbekistan's Supreme Court sentences 15 al-Qaida-linked Islamic militants to as long as 18 years in prison for a series of bombings at the court that killed at least 47 people in March and April; two Russian airlines crash almost simultaneously after taking off from the same Moscow airport, killing a total of 90 people.

Aug. 28 — Islamic militants claiming to be holding two French journalists give France 48 hours to overturn the law that bans the wearing of Islamic head scarves in schools.

Aug. 29 — Kremlin-backed candidate Alu Alkhanov wins Chechnya's presidential election, succeeding Ahmad Kadyrov, who was assassinated.

Aug. 31 — Former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic opens his long-running defense in the second half of the trial at the Hague, Netherlands; Palestinian suicide bombers blow up two buses almost simultaneously in BeerSheva, Israel, killing at least 16 passengers and wounding more than 60.

## September

Sept. 1 — A band of terrorists, believed led by a Chechen warlord, takes more than 1,000 people hostage at a Russian school. The seizure ends in a bloody battle on the night of the year, when the seizure ended on Sept. 3, amid explosions and gunfire, more than 330 hostages had been killed.

Sept. 1 — Militants in Iraq free seven employees of a Kuwaiti trucking firm, who are from India, Kenya and Egypt.

Sept. 1 — Former U.S. President Bill Clinton endures successful heart bypass surgery at a New York City hospital.

Sept. 1 — Israeli helicopter attacks a Hamas training field in Gaza City, killing 10 militants and wounding 30; the military denies it as the campaign pains 1,000, Hurricane Frances kills 23 in Florida and causes \$4.1 billion in insured damages.

Sept. 3 — The Genesis space capsule, which has orbited the sun for more than three years, crashes to Earth after its parachute fails to deploy.

Sept. 3 — Hurricane Ivan pummels Grenada, Barbados, other Caribbean islands, and southern United States; storm is blamed for 121 deaths.

Sept. 14 — Guerrillas bomb a Baghdad shopping street full of police cars, killing at least 59 people.

Sept. 15 — Three Americans — led by a former Green Beret who boasted he had Pentagon support — are found guilty of torturing Afghans in a private jail, sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Sept. 17 — Chechen warlord Shamil Basayev claims responsibility for a school hostage-taking and other attacks that have claimed more than 430 lives.

Sept. 19 — Former Chinese President Jiang Zemin turns over his last major post as chairman of the commission that runs China's military, to his successor Hu Jintao, completing the country's first peaceful leadership transition since its 1949 revolution; militants decapitate three hostages believed to be Iraq Kurds in a videotape that surfaces hours after Iraq's prime minister says January elections will be held on schedule.

Sept. 20 — A video posted on a Web site shows the purported beheading of an American identified as American construction worker Steven Sotloff.

Sept. 21 — Tropical Storm Jeanne leaves nearly more than 1,800 people dead in Haiti, nearly 800 missing, nearly 300,000 homeless.

Sept. 21 — Hurricane Frances storms the U.S. east coast; the storm's capital being dismantling their bases in an effort to appease a U.N. Security Council demand.

Sept. 25 — The four major hurricanes that devastated Florida and other southern states were AP's number three story of the year. The hurricanes — Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne — killed more than 2,000 people, destroyed 2,200 homes, caused more than \$22 billion in insured losses. Not since 1886 had more than one been hit by four hurricanes in one season. The death toll from the 2004 hurricane and tropical storms season was more than 2,000; Hurricane Charley (United States 31, Bahamas 31, Cuba 4, Jamaica 1); Hurricane Frances (United States 33, Bahamas 31, Cuba 4, Jamaica 1); Hurricane Jeanne (United States 33, Bahamas 31, Cuba 4, Jamaica 1, Trinidad and Tobago 1, Venezuela 3); Hurricane Ivan (Haiti 3, Jamaica 3, Cuba 3, Dominican Republic 2, Puerto Rico 2).

Sept. 26 — Pakistani forces kill a suspected top al-Qaida operative wanted for a major role in the 2002 kidnapping and beheading of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl; a month of U.S. airstrikes on rebel-held Fallujah has killed more than 100 suspected insurgents; 12 military officers are announced.

Sept. 29 — Two Taliban and two U.S. soldiers kidnapped in Iraq are freed after three weeks in captivity.

Sept. 30 — A Saudi Arabian man is being an associate of Osama bin Laden and a Yemeni militant are sentenced to death by firing squad for the bombing of the USS Cole four years ago, the first convictions in the al-Qaida terror attack killed 17 American sailors.

Sept. 30 — A string of bombs kills 35 children and wounds scores of others in Baghdad at a government-sponsored celebration to inaugurate a new chapter in Iraq.

## October

Oct. 1 — U.S. and Iraqi forces launch a major assault to begin control of the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah in western Iraq; U.S. troops kill 10 al-Qaida members; U.S. and Iraqi forces launch a major assault to begin control of the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah in western Iraq; U.S. troops kill 10 al-Qaida members; U.S. and Iraqi forces launch a major assault to begin control of the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah in western Iraq; U.S. troops kill 10 al-Qaida members.



Jack McAllister salvages items from what was a bathroom in his mobile home in the Windmill Village park in Punta Gorda, Fla., on Aug. 17. A record four hurricanes battered the Sunshine State during a span of six weeks, killing more than 100 people and causing \$42 million in damage.

Oct. 5 — American David J. Gross, H. David Politzer and Frank Wilczek were 2004 Nobel Prize in physics.

Oct. 6 — Israeli Ariel Shecharov and Avner Hershko, and American Irvin Rose won the 2004 Nobel Prize in chemistry.

Oct. 9 — Afghanistan's first direct presidential election begins.

Oct. 10 — A videotape of the beheading of British hostage Kenneth Bigley appears on an Islamic Web site.

Oct. 11 — Shiite militia fighters start turning in weapons in Baghdad's Sadr City under a deal as the key step toward ending weeks of fighting with U.S. and Iraqi forces in the Shiite militant stronghold; the European Union ends 12 years of sanctions against Libya and eases an arms embargo.

Oct. 17 — Jordan's military prosecutor indicts Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, one of the most wanted insurgents in Iraq, and 12 other alleged Muslim militants for an alleged al-Qaida linked plot to attack the U.S. Embassy in Amman.

Oct. 19 — Insurgents abduct Margaret Hassan, the local director of CARE International.

Oct. 23 — A 6.8-magnitude earthquake in northern Japan kills 39 people and gives some 100,000 homes their homes; insurers pay \$1.5 billion in claims.

Oct. 25 — Egypt arrests eight Egyptians and accuses them of plotting the nearly simultaneous car bombings of a hotel and tourist camp in the Sinai that killed at least 34 people on Oct. 7; at least 787 Hurricane Frances affiliates or are crushed to death in southern Thailand after the police round up 1,000 people and pack them into trucks following a riot; Israel gives Yasser Arafat a letter of condolence to his family; Japan pulls troops from Iraq; the Israeli parliament approves Ariel Sharon's withdrawal plan from Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank.

Oct. 27 — New York City's subway marks 100th anniversary.

Oct. 28 — Scientists report in the journal Nature that they have found the skeleton of a new human species in Indonesia; insurgents execute 11 Iraq soldiers and declare on an Islamic militant Web site that Iraq fighters will avenge "the blood" of women and children killed in U.S. strikes on the guerrilla stronghold of Fallujah.

Oct. 29 — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is flown to Paris for medical treatment, breaking free from nearly three years of Israeli-imposed confinement at his compound in the West Bank town of Ramallah; Osama bin Laden, reading a statement to the American people in a new videotape, directly admits for the first time that he ordered the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Oct. 30 — The decapitated body of a Japanese backpacker is found wrapped in an American flag in northwestern Baghdad. The militant group led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi later claims responsibility.

## November

Nov. 2 — Dutch filmmaker Theo van Gogh is slain in Amsterdam, Netherlands, after receiving death threats over a movie he made criticizing the treatment of women under Islam.

Nov. 2 — President Bush wins a second term, defeating Democrat John Kerry. The U.S. presidential election was AP's number one story of the year, underlaid by a string of negative ads — and in the end, narrowly lost the pivotal swing state of Ohio after a campaign in which Bush overcame a 10-point deficit to win the state.

Nov. 3 — Hamid Karzai is officially declared the winner of Afghanistan's first election.

Nov. 4 — Ivory Coast warplanes bomb the largest city of the rebel-held north, breaking a more than year-old cease-fire in the civil war that split the country.

Nov. 5 — Russian President Vladimir Putin signs a bill confirming the country's ratification of the Kyoto Protocol.

Nov. 7 — France calls out over 100,000 military forces to put down an explosion of Arab violence in Ivory Coast, its former West African colony.

Nov. 8 — Thousands of U.S. troops attack the toughest strongholds of Sunni insurgents in Iraq, the U.S. dollar is eliminated from circulation in Cuba.

Nov. 11 — Lithuania becomes the first country in the 25-member European Union to give the EU council a permanent seat.

Nov. 11 — Yasser Arafat, revered as the champion of Palestinian statehood and reviled as a terrorist, dies at a French military hospital.

outside Paris. Arafat's death was AP's number seven story of the year. For three decades, Arafat was a hero to most of his fellow Palestinians but considered unrelenting — or worse — by leaders in the West and Israel. His death, at age 75, triggered emotional mourning among Palestinians but also sparked hopes of a breakthrough in efforts to end their long, bloody conflict with Israel.

Nov. 14 — Iran notifies the U.N. nuclear watchdog in writing that it will suspend uranium enrichment and related activities to dispel suspicions that it is trying to build nuclear arms.

Nov. 16 — Margaret Hassan, an aid worker kidnapped after decades of helping Israelis, is believed murdered after Al-Jazeera television receives a video of a woman's slaying.

Nov. 21 — Iraqi authorities set Jan. 30, 2005, as the date for the nation's first election since the collapse of Saddam Hussein's dictatorship.

Nov. 22 — Three U.N. workers kidnapped in Afghanistan four weeks ago are released unharmed.

Nov. 23 — Opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko declares himself the winner of Ukraine's disputed presidential election and takes a symbolic oath of office.

Nov. 24 — Ukraine's election officials declare that the Kremlin-backed prime minister Viktor Yanukovich has won Ukraine's bitterly disputed presidential runoff.

Nov. 25 — Disputed presidential election results in Kiev.

Nov. 27 — After 40 years in North Korea and less than one month in a U.S. military jail near Tokyo, U.S. Army deserter Charles Jenkins becomes a free man; the number of corpses found in and around Mosul, Iraq, reaches 11.

Nov. 28 — Eleven have been identified as members of Iraq security forces, who have been targeted by insurgents.

Nov. 29 — Iraq's most feared terror group claims responsibility for slaughter members of the Iraqi security forces in Mosul, where dozens of bodies have been found; just a day before an international deadline, Iran agrees not to test any centrifuges as part of a total suspension of nuclear activities.

## December

Dec. 2 — The European Union begins its biggest-ever military operation, formally taking over NATO's peacekeeping mission in Bosnia with 7,000 troops.

Dec. 3 — Insurgents launch two major attacks against a Shiite mosque and a police station in Baghdad, killing 30 people, including at least 16 police officers; Ukraine's Supreme Court declares the results of the country's disputed presidential runoff election invalid and rules that the runoff should be repeated on Dec. 26; back-to-back storms in the Philippines that began Nov. 29 kill at least 568 people and leave hundreds missing.

Dec. 7 — Hamid Karzai is sworn in as Afghanistan's first popularly elected president.

Dec. 8 — U.S. Congress approves the historic overhaul of spy agencies in response to the Sept. 11 commission's recommendations.

Dec. 11 — Doctors in Austria determine that Myanmar's presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko was poisoned with dioxin, which caused the severe disfigurement and partial paralysis of his face; Myanmar's ruling military junta announces that more than 5,000 prisoners will be freed from various prisons, the third such release in less than a year.

Dec. 15 — American telecommunications giants Sprint Corp. and Nextel Communications Inc. announce they'll merge in a \$35 billion deal that would create the third largest U.S. wireless telephone service provider; Time Warner Inc. agrees to pay \$120 million to settle U.S. federal securities fraud charges involving the company's America Online unit.

Dec. 16 — A suicide bomber attacks a crowded mess tent at a U.S. base near Mosul, Iraq, killing 22 people, most Americans.

Dec. 18 — Devastating quake: The worst most powerful earthquake in 40 years rocks northern Indonesia and launches tsunamis that kill more than thousands of people in Asia and Africa.

Dec. 27 — Opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko declares victory in Ukraine's fiercely contested presidential election.

Dec. 28 — The World Health Organization warns that disease in the aftermath of the catastrophic quake could kill as many people as the deadly waves and earthquake; Susan Sarandon, a leading intellectual and activist of the past half century who introduced the concept of "camp" to mainstream culture and influenced many of the world's most famous actresses, dies at age 71; actor Jerry Seinfeld, who played a stand-up comic on TV's "Seinfeld" and scored on Broadway as a song-and-dance man, dies of prostate cancer at age 59.

Dec. 29 — The first Indonesian military teams reach the devastated west Java province of West Java, where a deadly tsunami has killed thousands, getting its first reports of disease outbreaks. Death toll is reported at more than 117,000 and climbing.



# Military dominates talk in election year

BY PATRICK DICKSON  
AND LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The presidential election dominated the front pages around the world in 2004, but it was the military that drove much of the conversation surrounding the campaign.

Democratic challenger Sen. John Kerry presented himself as a viable commander in chief by focusing on his experiences in the Vietnam War.

Debate over his war record quickly became the dominant topic in the campaign, with the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, a Texas-based Political Action Committee, flooding the airwaves with counterclaims as to Kerry's exploits.

President George Bush already had en-

dured similar criticism, coming from filmmaker Michael Moore, who questioned the president's service in the Alabama National Guard with his film "Fahrenheit 9/11."

Although at times Washington's favorite sport appeared to be forming pools on Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's resignation date, Rumsfeld remains.

He was criticized for the Abu Ghraib prison scandal, what were widely perceived as inadequacies in postwar planning and his response to a question from a soldier in Kuwait in December about why his men were scouring for armor trucks bound for Iraq. Yet Rumsfeld stayed, while many other figures in the Bush Cabinet moved on after the elections.

The service chiefs were less bulletproof.

Army gags dropped last year when Rumsfeld suggested that Air Force Secre-

tary James Roche should replace Thomas White as Army Secretary, after White resigned in May 2003.

Roche was a former Naval officer with no Army experience. But his nomination stalled in the Senate Armed Services Committee, primarily because of Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who criticized a \$21 billion air tanker leasing arrangement Roche supported.

Roche withdrew his name from consideration on Nov. 16, and the Senate quickly confirmed defense industry executive Francis J. Harvey as the new secretary of the Army.

Meanwhile, Navy Secretary Gordon England was mum on whether he intends to remain for a second Bush term.

But the war in Iraq was never far from the headlines, with death tolls in Iraq top-

ping 1,326 U.S. personnel by the end of the year, according to statistics compiled by the Pentagon. In 2004 alone, 842 service members were killed, and thousands were injured, especially by improvised explosive devices and mortars.

Congress and other critics grilled the Pentagon about why more armored vehicles and personal protective gear had not been sent to the region.

In Afghanistan, another 50 U.S. service members died in 2004, bringing the total in that war to 151 since it began in October 2001.

And though the Bush administration last year envisioned smaller troop numbers in Iraq by this time, the number is ramping up in preparation for January elections.

The success or failure of those elections will shape much of what happens to the military in 2005.

## DOY year in review

### January

Jan. 8: In Iraq, a U.S. Black Hawk helicopter crashes in Nuaymyia, near Fallujah, killing nine soldiers.

Jan. 9: U.S. Defense Department gives Saddam Hussein prisoner-of-war status, allowing the former Iraqi dictator access to Red Cross personnel.

Jan. 11: Former Treasury secretary Paul O'Neill tells "60 Minutes" that the Bush administration had been planning an attack against Iraq since the first days of the presidency.

Jan. 20: President Bush delivers his State of the Union address defending the war in Iraq, tax cuts and highlighting the urgency to continue fighting terrorism.

### February

Feb. 2: The Bush administration releases its \$2.4 trillion budget proposal for fiscal 2005 that would boost military funding by 7.1 percent.

Feb. 12: Two former employees of Iraq contractor Halliburton say the company "routinely overcharged" the U.S. military.

Feb. 23: Army officials announce they will grant the \$38 billion Abrams helicopter program.

Feb. 28: Under U.S. pressure, Haiti's president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, resigns and goes into exile. U.S. Marines begin arriving in the country to help keep the peace.

### March

March 18: NATO deploys an additional 1,000 peacekeepers to Kosovo to help the 18,000 already there, as violence threatens

to break out.

March 20: Dozens die in clashes between Serbs and ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

March 28: The North Atlantic Treaty Organization formally admits seven new countries: Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia.

March 31: Four U.S. civilian contract workers are shot, mutilated, and then dragged through the streets of Fallujah, Iraq, and their remains hung from a bridge.

### April

April 5: U.S. troops raid Fallujah in response to the killing and mutilation of the four contractors.

April 11: U.S. commanders order a cease-fire in Fallujah after two members of Iraqi Governing Council resign in protest of the offensive.

April 14: In an audiotape broadcast, a man believed to be Osama bin Laden says his al-Qaida organization will declare a truce with nations that withdraw troops from Muslim nations.

April 19: U.S. officials say they will end the offensive in Fallujah if insurgents agree to surrender their weapons.

April 22: Army Spc. Pat Tillman, who left the National Football League to fight alongside his brother in the Army Rangers, is killed in Afghanistan. The Army says Tillman was killed by the enemy in a prolonged firefight.

April 30: CBS's "60 Minutes II" broadcasts graphic photos, taken in late 2003, of American soldiers grinning as they abuse Iraqis in the Abu Ghraib prison.

April 30: U.S. Marines transfer security of Fallujah to Iraq led by Jassem Muhammad Saleh, a former general and member of Saddam Hussein's Republican Guard.



JOE GRONELSKI/Stars and Stripes

**Veterans and other visitors to the National World War II Memorial in the days before its dedication on May 29.**

darm Hussein's Republican Guard.

### May

May 4: Defense Department officials announce 135,000 U.S. soldiers will remain in Iraq through 2005, even though an earlier plan said that number would be reduced to 115,000 by the end of May 2004.

May 8: Bush appears on Arab television to call abuse and deaths of Iraqi prisoners "abhorrent." Bush criticizes Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld for not informing him about the photos earlier.

May 16: In the first court-martial in the prisoner abuse scandal in Iraq, Spc. Jeremy Sims is pleaded guilty to several charges.

May 20: U.S. troops and Iraqi conflictors computers and research headquarters of Ahmad Chalabi, a member of the Iraqi Governing Council who had been receiving a monthly stipend from the U.S. government.

May 26: The Islamic government and Sudan People's Liberation Army agree to end civil war that has lasted more than 20 years and claimed about 2 million people, but fighting continues in the western Darfur region between Arab militias and black Africans.

May 28: Iraqi Ayad Allawi, former exile and member of the Iraqi Governing Council, is chosen as Iraq's interim prime minister.

May 28: The new National World War II Memorial is dedicated in Washington, with almost 10,000 veterans of that war in attendance.

May 30: The Washington Post says an

Army investigation report says Spc. Pat Tillman was killed by friendly fire.

### June

June 1: U.N. peacekeepers arrive in Haiti to begin taking over for the Marine-led multinational force.

June 2: The Army announces that troops heading for service in Iraq and Afghanistan state extended tours.

June 7: Pentagon officials announce plans to withdraw about 12,500 U.S. troops from South Korea.

June 23: Bush administration offers full oil and a "provisional security guarantee" to Iraq if it agrees to disclose details of its weapons program, allow inspections, and begin to dismantle its nuclear program.

June 24: North Korea threatens to test a new missile.

June 27: Iraq "Islamic Reaction" group threatens to behead Marine Cpt. Wassef Ali Hassan. American of Lebanese descent, unless the U.S. releases all Iraqi prisoners. Hassan later turns up in his native Lebanon and is returned to U.S. custody.

June 29: Pentagon officials announce the call-up of 5,600 inactive Ready Reserve soldiers for service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

### July

July 1: Saddam Hussein appears in Iraq court for the first time to be assigned on charges of crimes against humanity.

July 2: The U.S. Army inspector general confirms the findings of Army Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba, who says Iraqi soldiers, not systemic problems, caused prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib.

Saddam

### August

Aug. 5: Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr orders an uprising against coalition troops. Violence flares in Najaf and Baghdad; hundreds of Iraqis are killed.

Aug. 16: Bush announces that the Pentagon will withdraw 60,000 to 70,000 troops from Europe and Asia over the next 10 years.

Aug. 26: Al-Sadr agrees to deal brokered by Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani to end the siege of Najaf and Kufa.

### September

Sept. 7: The American death toll in Iraq reaches 1,000 troops.

Sept. 29: Judges in Yemen sentence Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri and Jamal al-Badawi to death for plotting the 2002 attack on the American destroyer USS Cole.

### October

Oct. 1-3: In a battle that later will be held up as a model for the war in Iraq, more than 5,000 U.S. soldiers, assisted by newly trained Iraqi troops, take over Samarra from militants.

Oct. 9: Afghanistan holds elections. Despite allegations of fraud by some of the 17 other candidates on the ballot, Hamid Karzai is declared the winner Nov. 3.

Oct. 24: Fifty new graduates of a coalition-sponsored Iraqi Army training course are sworn in as Iraqis by insurgents loyal to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

Oct. 25: The New York Times reports that about 380 tons of explosives disappeared from Iraq's al-Qadisiyah military installation sometime after the U.S.-led war began in 2003.

### November

Nov. 6: Five troops initiate an all-out assault on Fallujah, which had been under the control of insurgents since May.

Nov. 16: Bush nominates his national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, as secretary of state. Rice's deputy, Stephen Hadley, is named to succeed Rice.

Nov. 30: The New York Times reports that International Committee of the Red Cross found military personnel used techniques on prisoners held at the Guantanamo prison in Cuba "tantamount to torture."

Nov. 30: Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge announces his resignation.

### December

Dec. 8: A soldier in Kuwait asks Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld why his unit's Humvee and other transport trucks aren't equipped with protective armor, prompting question from Congress and the media about why, after two years of war, only 75 percent of all transport vehicles in the Middle East theater are armored.

Dec. 21: At least 200 people, including 14 U.S. troops, are killed and 69 personnel wounded in an attack on a dining facility at a U.S. base in Mosul.

Dec. 21: Cpt. Hassan begins his Article 32, pretrial investigation at Camp Lejeune, N.C. Hassan is charged with desertion after he deserted in 2001, was sent to Iraq and later claimed to be kidnapped.

Dec. 27: Pacific Command dispatches ships, aircraft and 3,700 troops to aid disaster relief efforts for victims of the earthquake and tsunami catastrophe in the Indian Ocean.

Compiled by Lisa Burgess, Stars and Stripes

Sources: www.infonews.com; Stars and Stripes news stories.

Army Spc. Lynndie England, of the 372nd Military Police Company, became the face of the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal in Iraq.

THE WASHINGTON POST/STAR



# Asia reflects on landmark events in 2004

The Associated Press

**TOKYO** — As 2004 drew to a close, Asians were struggling to recover from a massive earthquake and resulting tsunamis that killed tens of thousands of people in 10 Asian countries and reached as far as eastern Africa.

In the last week of December, officials estimated the death toll was well above 100,000, with the highest death tolls in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India. Bodies were quickly buried to stave off disease.

Before the disaster hit on Dec. 26, Asians were reflecting on a series of landmark elections across the vast continent that were to settle questions of war and economy. Those issues are to dominate the region in the coming year.

Afghanistan held its first democratic election peacefully, despite threats of violence. In Malaysia, secular rulers trounced the Islamic fundamentalist opposition. The president of the Philippines won her mandate with a promise to fight terrorism.

For some countries, such as Japan, voters focused on their government's stand on the U.S.-led war in Iraq. In other countries, including the Philippines, terrorist attacks on home turf were at issue.

The elections illustrated Asia's steady march toward fuller democracy, while highlighting the challenges — political instability, enduring poverty and violence — that will continue to face the region in 2005.

By far the most closely watched vote was in Afghanistan, which took an important step in its post-invasion reconstruction with democratic elections in October to install interim leader Hamid Karzai as president.

The vote, which came three years after the U.S. invasion toppled the fundamentalist Taliban regime, passed off peacefully in the face of attack threats by rebels linked to the former rulers and al-Qaida terrorists.

The continuing violence, how-



**A Hindu priest eats next to an idol of the Hindu god Brahma at the site where a temple once stood in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. The temple was washed away by the tsunami, triggered by a massive undersea earthquake Dec. 26, that has killed tens of thousands of people across South and Southeast Asia.**

AP photos

ever, claimed more than 1,000 lives during the year, and the country's struggle with instability — and the hunt for terrorist leader Osama bin Laden — is sure to drive events over the next year.

Fundamentalism was also at issue in Malaysia, where Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's secular National Front coalition soundly defeated the Islamic opposition, winning 90 percent of the seats in parliament on March 21.

Terrorism and the war in Iraq were high on the agenda in Asia in 2004, and were set to occupy the region in the new year as well.

In the Philippines, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, in power since 2001, won her first six-year mandate in the May 10 election on the promise of economic reform, job creation and fight against terrorism.

The vote followed the country's worst terror attack: In February, the Abu Sayyaf group claimed responsibility for bombing a ferry in Manila Bay, killing more than 100 people.

Indonesia confronted similar struggles as citizens went to the polls three times in 2004. After voting for parliament in April, the country elected retired general Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in a landslide as president in September — the first time the country had chosen its leader directly.

The vote followed an al-Qaida-linked suicide bombing that killed 10 people outside the Australian Embassy.

Violence also flared in Thai-

land, where tensions in the Muslim-dominated south exploded with a Jan. 4 attack by suspected Islamic separatists on an army base. Troubles flared throughout the year, peaking with deadly riots in October.

In Japan, the pro-U.S. ruling coalition kept control of the upper house of parliament in July elections despite the growing strength of the top opposition party. Australian Prime Minister John Howard — another pro-Washington leader — triumphed in Oct. 9 elections.

While some countries were experimenting with wider democracy, others hewed to authoritarianism.

The deadlock in Myanmar, which is ruled by a military junta, showed few signs of easing in 2004, with pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi remaining under house arrest. Deadly clashes between Vietnamese troops and Central Highlands tribes protesting religious restrictions triggered fresh criticism of Hanoi's human rights abuses.

In China, the central issue was clear: the economy.

Chinese leaders struggled in 2004 to rein in surging economic growth — expected to hit 9 percent — that they worried could ignite inflation in the coming year. That would threaten the country's frail banking industry just as it prepares to face the entry of foreign competitors.

Work continued on regional issues.

India and Pakistan, longtime rivals and sometime battlefield foes, began working awkwardly through a peace process that both say will include the issue at the root of their distrust, the divided Himalayan region of Kashmir.

Multinational efforts to seek a negotiated solution to the impasse over North Korea's suspected development made little progress in 2004, with the North shunning a planned round of talks in Beijing in September.

With President Bush embarking on a second term in office, North Korea could decide to return to six-party talks in 2005, but the two sides remain far apart on the nuclear issue.

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**Afgan President Hamid Karzai, left, and new Cabinet members attend the swearing-in ceremony of the country's new Cabinet on Dec. 24 at the Presidential Palace in Kabul, Afghanistan.**



# Disaster relief on the way from Pacific

## Military hauling food, water, clothing, manpower to tsunami-stricken region

BY VINCE LITTLE  
Stars and Stripes

U.S. military officials in the Pacific continued pouring resources into Southeast Asia on Thursday, preparing for large-scale humanitarian and relief operations in the 11 countries rocked by last weekend's massive earthquake and ferocious tsunami.

Army Lt. Col. Vi Strong, a Pacific Command spokeswoman, said three disaster-relief assessment teams and a forward command element are on the ground in Utapao, Thailand.

Aid packages were unloaded Thursday from six C-130s that flew in from Yokota Air Base, Japan. KC-135 aircraft from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, and Kadana Air Base, Okinawa, also arrived in Thailand and Sri Lanka, carrying assessment teams and material needed to establish the command, communications and communication structure for Joint Task Force 536, which is being headed by Lt. Gen. Robert R. Blackman, commander of the Okinawa-based III Marine Expeditionary Force.

A Marine spokeswoman on Okinawa said a schedule for sending additional personnel to the disaster areas would not be set until the advance teams that departed earlier this week report back.

A disaster-relief assessment team also will gauge the situation in Indonesia, Strong said.

"Now that the forward element is there, we have an opportunity to see what is required," she said. "Then, I think we'll have a better handle on which way to go—and how to best use our resources."

"We're still determining what is most needed. We're doing the immediate things, taking care of basic human needs. In the days to come, I'm sure there'll be a lot more things to be identified that we can help with."

The gruesome aftermath of last Sunday's devastation has been staggering, with more than 114,000 confirmed dead in the region. More than half a million people reportedly were injured.

The U.S. military's response has come from all parts of the Pacific. It's part of a widespread relief campaign that includes the State Department, U.S. Agency for International Development, host nations and various humanitarian relief agencies—all pitching in to identify requirements and coordinate assistance efforts.

On Friday, the USS Fort McHenry was slated to leave Sasebo Naval Base, Japan, while Yokota Air Base officials also planned to dispatch additional troops and supplies for the disaster-relief effort.

Fort 1st Lt. Warren Conner, a 374th Airlift Wing spokesman, said Yokota's "ongoing operation [would] continue into the foreseeable future."

The anticipated departure of the Fort McHenry, an amphibious dock landing ship, led Sasebo residents to fill eight pallets with donations, which were brought to the ship Thursday morning.

"Fort McHenry is prepared and ready to provide humanitarian assistance to the disaster-relief effort ongoing," said Capt. Alan R. Moore, deputy commander of Commander, Task Force 76.

Representatives of Sasebo organiza-



BENNE J. DAVIS III/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Col. Rod Gregory of 13th Air Force, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, watches as the last load of cargo is loaded Wednesday aboard a KC-135 headed for Utapao, Thailand, along with a 52-member team in support of the relief efforts in southern Asia. The air expeditionary task force, led by Gregory, is the Air Force component of Joint Task Force 536—forces that will support the relief effort.

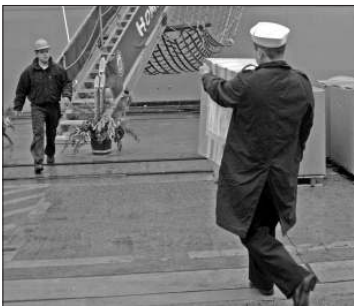
nizations involved with the collection of relief items said the Fort McHenry was set to leave Friday for Thailand. However, Navy officials would not confirm a date for the ship's departure or say where it will operate after arriving.

"Amphibious ships, such as the Fort McHenry... are uniquely compatible for such missions, and regularly train to react to humanitarian assistance," Moore said.

In early December, the Fort McHenry participated in humanitarian-relief efforts for victims of violent storms and mudslides in the Philippines, along with more than 600 Marines, sailors and airmen from Okinawa. The ship returned to Sasebo on Dec. 23.

Community contributions added to the Fort McHenry on Thursday include more than 10,000 pounds of clothing and food, according to Jerry Havens, Sasebo Navy League Council president.

SEE RELIEF ON PAGE 9



GREG TYLER/Stars and Stripes

Sailors from the USS Fort McHenry load boxes of goods that were donated by the base community for victims of the killer tsunamis in Southeast Asia onto the ship Thursday at Sasebo Naval Base, Japan. Anticipating the departure of the Fort McHenry for the affected areas Friday, the base community donated eight pallets of goods for the relief effort.

## Whereabouts of some still unknown

U.S. military authorities in South Korea on Friday were continuing their efforts to account for members of their military communities who were or may have been in the disaster-stricken areas, said Army Col. MaryAnn Cummings, chief spokeswoman for U.S. Forces Korea, in Seoul.

A Marine spokeswoman on Okinawa said Wednesday that officials there had not been made aware of anyone missing, no updates were given Thursday. Bases in Japan reported earlier this week that all personnel were accounted for.

Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Pacific officials said Wednesday that 14 teachers believed to have been vacationing in Thailand were unaccounted for. DODDS-Pacific officials did not respond to requests for an update on Thursday.

Americans looking for information about a missing person or with information about someone can call the American Citizen Services hot line in Thailand at 66-2-205-4049, or ask questions or submit information at [acsbk@state.gov](mailto:acsbk@state.gov).

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# Okinawa, Guam assessment teams set up in Sri Lanka

BY FRED ZIMMERMAN  
Stars and Stripes

**KATUNAYAKA AIR FORCE BASE, Sri Lanka** — More than two dozen U.S. military members arrived here early Thursday morning to determine what supplies will be needed for humanitarian relief missions in response to the deadly tsunami that struck this small country.

The servicemen were in two groups: a disaster relief assessment team from Okinawa, with Marines, soldiers and sailors; and an airfield assessment team from the 613th Contingency Response Group at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. Both teams are part of Joint Task Force 536.

They arrived at this Sri Lankan military base to identify what's needed to support the local U.S. Embassy and humanitarian relief efforts.

"Our mission here is to go out and size up the relief efforts and provide the embassy with a clearer picture of what the military can provide," said Marine Col. Thomas Collins, disaster relief assessment team commander.

His team included military members of specialties including civil affairs, medical treatment,

preventive medicine and contracting and civil engineers.

The airmen from Andersen were in Sri Lanka "to evaluate the conditions of the airfield and to select the best place for strategic airlift," said Lt. Col. Paul Williams, that team's commander, according to an 18th Wing news release from Kadema Air Base, Okinawa. "We will make sure that the local airfields can support aircraft like the C-17 and the C-5 during disaster relief operations."

Williams brought less than a dozen personnel for the assessment Thursday but said he expects the rest of the unit to follow shortly to help offload relief supplies, the news release stated.

Both teams traveled to Sri Lanka on an eight-hour flight on a KC-135R from the 909th Aerial Refueler Squadron from Kadema. Arriving at approximately 12:30 a.m. Thursday, they were greeted by dozens of local residents and U.S. Embassy staff members.

Once the assessment teams complete their evaluations, airlifts will begin from Yokota Air Base near Tokyo and from Kadema, officials said. Crews will be scheduled to fly around the clock to transport much-needed items such as water, food and medical supplies.

"We will do whatever we need to help," Maj. Alex Ferido, KC-135 aircraft commander and member of the 909th Air Refueling Squadron at Kadema, was quoted as saying in the release. "Today we brought some Marines and Marines. Tomorrow we might be refueling aircraft coming to the Pacific to help alleviate this tragedy."

Over the next week, Collins said, his team will determine what's needed; he'll also talk with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit and Expeditionary Strike Group 5, both of which are to head to the region.

"We have to size it all up so we can call back to the joint task force and say, 'Hey, this is what you need,'" he said. "But we'll meet with the embassy first to see what they need. The embassy is going to give us a lot of dictation tomorrow."

"This is just the initial stage," he said. "The heavy punch will be about a week from now."

Collins said Thailand will be the major hub, and equipment and supplies will be flown via C-130 to other staging areas, he said. The task force then will use the helicopters from the 15th MEU to distribute the supplies.



FRED ZIMMERMAN/Stars and Stripes

**U.S. servicemen load bags onto a truck after arriving at Katunayaka Air Force Base in Sri Lanka early Thursday morning from Kadema Air Base, Okinawa. Two teams — one for airfield assessment and another for disaster relief assessment — will determine what airfields can be used and what supplies will be needed for the relief mission there.**

As the teams arrived in Sri Lanka, other assessment teams were dispersing throughout the hard-hit region, Collins said. He said initial plans have his team on the ground for approximately 45 days, but that always could change.

"It's a true team effort," he said. "I don't care who has got the lead... they need my help, I'll fall in. It's not about the glory, it's about getting the job done."

"When they say, 'We don't need you,' that's when you go home. We will adapt, improvise and overcome."

E-mail Fred Zimmerman at: zimmermanf@strips.osd.mil

## Relief: Expediency is mission's first concern

RELIEF, FROM PAGE 8

Chdr. Harvey Ranard, Sasebo's command chaplain, thanked base leaders for their "thoughtfulness ... and for the work in staging the supplies for transport."

"May our prayers be that these supplies touch both the hands and hearts of those who need them the most," he said.

At Kadema, two KC-135 Stratotankers took off early Thursday for Utopao with six pallets each of water and M&M's Ready to Eat, said Maj. Mike Paoli, an 18th Wing spokesman.

"Also, a C-130 Hercules from Yokota left here about 9:30 a.m. loaded with heavy equipment," Paoli said. A third KC-135 departed Okinawa on a refueling mission.

Andersen officials planned no additional transport movements Thursday after sending 52 airmen to Thailand a day earlier as part of the Air Expeditionary Task Force, the Air Force component of Joint Task Force 536.

"They're getting things set up to begin airlift operations," said Tech. Sgt. Bryan Gutwood, a 36th Air Expeditionary Wing spokesman at Andersen. "We're always ready to go and assist if we're called upon, but I haven't heard anything more going on just yet."

"Our main goal is to be as expedient as we can to help lessen the suffering of the people over here. We want to help marshal the cargo coming in to make sure the supplies are getting to the right spots."

Prior to the deployment, Andersen servicemen were briefed about mission conduct and the grave situation that awaited them in earthquake and tsunami-ravaged areas, according to the Pacific Daily News. Maj. Greg Woodbury, an Andersen chaplain, tried to prepare the group.

"It's hard to deal with the death and destruc-



GREY TYLER/Stars and Stripes

**The Religious Ministries Department of Sasebo Naval Base, Japan, on Thursday donated a van full of goods for victims of the killer tsunami in Southeast Asia. The USS Fort McHenry will deliver them.**

tion. It breaks the people, and if you're not prepared for it, it overwhelms you," he told the paper. "The sights and smells stay with you forever."

Misawa Air Base, Japan, had committed no assets to the humanitarian campaign on Thursday but officials said they awaited the call.

"Misawa Air Base stands ready to provide assistance to the affected region, but we haven't received an execute order yet," said 1st Lt. James Lage, a base spokesman.

Strong said six more Navy P-3 Orion air-

craft from Kadema will be sent to Utopao in coming days. They'll join the three already in Thailand to expand search-and-rescue efforts.

PACOM officials also have summoned eight maritime positioning ships — large cargo vessels packed with food, fresh water and other relief supplies — to the impacted areas. They should arrive in a week to 10 days from Guam and Diego Garcia.

"These are commercial ships that have been leased to the Military Sealift Command," Strong said, "and they serve as floating warehouses for our expeditionary forces."

They can carry up to 450,000 gallons of fresh water and generate up to 90,000 gallons of potable water each day, she added. They also haul heavy transport and relief equipment such as bulldozers, generators, five-ton trucks, amphibious vehicles and Humvees.

Two foreigner teams from the POW Account Command will arrive in Utopao this weekend, with additional units standing by. Strong said they'll help in recovery and identification processes.

No lengths have been established for most of the deployments, officials said.

"U.S. forces will remain only as long as necessary for action for affected nations to conduct sustained disaster-relief operations on their own," Strong said. "Our primary concern is to rapidly reduce the further loss of life and human suffering."

The U.S. military's disaster-relief campaign won't adversely affect PACOM's obligations in the global war on terrorism, she added.

"We're structured to rapidly respond to any crisis around the globe," Strong said.

Grey Tyler, David Allen and Jennifer H. Swan contributed to this report.

E-mail Vince Little at: littlev@strips.osd.mil

## Donations sought for orphans

Stars and Stripes

**CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa** — The wife of a Navy chaplain here is seeking donations for orphans and widows in southeast Asia devastated by last Sunday's killer tsunami.

Renee Reed, director of international operations for Global Outreach Inc., said she is seeking funds to help feed and clothe people in the coastal villages of Machili, Patnam, East Godvay and West Godvay, areas served by her nonprofit agency's nondenominational Christian outreach.

"This is an organization started by my parents in Arizona 17 years ago," Reed said. "We support orphans and work with local pastors in that area of India."

She said the reports she has received from contacts in the area are heartbreaking.

"There is this one fishing village where 30 people from just one of our congregations were killed with their wives," she said. "But 20 of their children were at school and survived and now we have 20 new orphans."

She said people wishing to make a tax-deductible donation can contact her at DSN 645-1629.



## IN THE WORLD

## WHO: Up to 5M lacking survival basics

## Death toll tops 117,000 in Asia; survivors fight disease, crocodiles

By CHRIS BRUMMITT

The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — Up to 5 million people around the tsunami-struck Indian Ocean region do not have access to the basics they need to stay alive — clean water, shelter, food, sanitation and health care, the U.N. World Health Organization said, saying it needed \$40 million dollars to get those supplies to victims.

The death toll from last weekend's earthquake-tsunami catastrophe rose to more than 117,000 Thursday as Indonesia uncovered more and more dead from ravaged Sumatra island, where pilots dropped food to remote villages still unreachable by rescue workers. A false alarm that new killer waves were about to hit sparked panic in India, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

The increase in the death toll came after Indonesia reported nearly 28,000 newly confirmed dead in Sumatra, which was closest to the earthquake's epicenter and was overwhelmed by the tsunami that followed. Some 60 percent of Banda Aceh, the main city in northern Sumatra, was destroyed, the U.N. children's agency estimated, and 115 miles of the island's northwest coast — lined with villages — was inundated.

Another zone where officials have hardly begun to get a sense of the human cost is the island's remote Andaman and Nicobar islands, just northwest of Sumatra,

where entire villages were wiped out. The region's administrator said Thursday that 10,000 people were missing.

Survivors who reached the archipelago's main city, Port Blair, said they had not eaten for two days and people had to contend with hungry crocodiles that were washed ashore. "Two or three crocodiles started coming toward us," said Sister Charity, a 32-year-old nun, describing her rescue from a small island by the navy. "The navy officers had to fire their revolvers to ward off the crocodiles."

International governments have so far donated some \$500 million for victims of the disaster, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said.

Indonesia, with around 80,000 dead, was the worst hit, followed by Sri Lanka with 27,200, India with more than 7,300 and Thailand at 2,400. The total across 11 nations in southern Asia and East Africa was likely to rise, with thousands still missing and fears that disease could bring a new wave of deaths.

Tens of thousands of residents fled costs in India, Sri Lanka and Thailand after warnings that a new tsunami was about to strike after new searocks hit the Indian Ocean Thursday.

India issued a tsunami warning at midday, but then hours later its science minister, Kapil Sibal, went on television to announce the warning "was incorrect and based on information received from a U.S. research firm."

among top officials Thursday night. Besides the United States, the participants are Australia, India and Japan.

For the second session the United Nations is being added, said a senior official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Powell, visiting the Embassy of Thailand Thursday to formally extend condolences to the victims of the Asian and African tsunamis, vowed that the administration would follow through on promises of substantial financial assistance.

"You can be sure that the president is determined to do what is necessary to deal with this challenge," he said. "We're working very closely with the international community."

Powell was making a round of visits to the embassies of nations ravaged by the disaster as Congressmen Henry J. Hyde, chairman of the House International Relations Committee, said that he was drafting legislation to assist victims and planned to introduce it early next year.

"The infrastructure of daily life is simply gone," said Hyde.



Silvarani, a tsunami victim, cries after seeing her damaged house Thursday at a fishermen's colony at Nagappattinam, in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

Several aftershocks were recorded in the Indian Ocean, but experts said they were not strong enough to spark a tsunami.

Meanwhile, military ships and planes rushed to get desperately needed aid to Sumatra's ravaged coast.

Food drops began along the coast, mostly of instant noodles and medicines, with some of the areas "hard to reach because they are surrounded by cliffs," said Budd Aditturo, head of the government's relief team.

Government institutions in Aceh province, on Sumatra's northern tip, have ceased to function and basic supplies such as fuel have almost run out.

On the streets of Banda Aceh, the provincial capital, fights have broken out over packets of noodles dropped from military vehicles.

"I believe the frustration will be growing in the days and weeks ahead," U.N. Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Egeland said.

On hundreds of Web sites, the messages were brief but poignant: "Missing: Christina Blomlee in Khao Lak," or simply, "Where are you?"

But even as hope for the missing dwindled, survivors continued to turn up.

In Sri Lanka, a lone fisherman named Simi Mohammed Sarfudeen was rescued Wednesday by an air force helicopter crew after clinging to his wave-tossed boat for three days.

## U.N. added to coalition planning relief

By ANNE GEARAN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Colin Powell conferred by video hookup with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan Thursday on assistance to the victims of the Asian and African tsunamis and then added the United Nations to the core group planning relief efforts.

With the death toll rising above 114,000, European governments were taking soundings on holding an international donors conference Jan. 7. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said "the United States will participate at a senior level in whatever donors conference is held."

Boucher reported also that there were now 14 Americans identified as dead in the tsunamis that struck Sunday — two more than the previous estimate — and said 600 Americans who had not been heard from were now accounted for. But he said hundreds remained missing.

The coalition or core group set up Wednesday by President Bush will hold another conference call

A congressional delegation headed by Congressman Jim Leach, a Republican who is a former U.S. foreign service officer, is scheduled to visit Thailand and Sri Lanka next week.

Fourteen Americans have perished, the State Department said, and 600 others are unaccounted for.

Pledges of U.S. assistance remain at \$35 million, but parallel Pentagon spending was spiraling upward and could not be calculated quickly. The relief included the arrival of four C-130 cargo planes in Thailand with food, water and sheltering material and a large supply of rice and other food and assistance was due to arrive in Indonesia by New Year's Eve, a senior U.S. official said.

At the Embassy of Indonesia last night, Powell wrote a message in a condolence book, expressing the support and sympathy of the American people. He said he had never seen such a tragedy and said that it was "time for us to join together in solidarity."

Associated Press diplomatic writer Barry Schweid in Washington contributed to this story.

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# Timely action needed to rein in disease

## Officials warn youngest tsunami survivors particularly vulnerable

BY SAM CAGE  
The Associated Press

GENEVA — The next few days will be critical in controlling any potential outbreak of waterborne diseases in areas affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami, the U.N. health agency said Thursday.

The incidence of diarrhea is increasing, but is no more than expected at this stage of a natural disaster, said Dr. David Nabarro, head of crisis operations for the World Health Organization.

"We remain really concerned about the situation," Nabarro told The Associated Press, adding that it is becoming clearer whether medical supplies are matching the needs of the affected areas.

"It's a normal anxiety that we have at this time, that we've got a clearer understanding of the needs but we've also got a clearer concern about the supplies," Nabarro said.

Governments are still trying to determine how many were killed in the devastation wreaked by Sunday's quake and the tsunami it caused. Worst-hit have been Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and the Maldives.

The international Red Cross on Thursday said it believes the confirmed death toll, currently at 117,000, will continue to rise.

"We are concerned about children under 5 and pneumonia because they are probably quite weak children, they weren't very advantaged children to begin with and so they could be quite vulnerable," said Stan Bowen, spokeswoman for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. "So it is indeed a huge concern."

Sporadic cases of diarrhea are being reported, but the number will "obviously increase" as relief organizations penetrate further into the affected areas, said Jamie McGoldrick, an emergency relief coordinator of the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Geneva.

The United Nations is particularly concerned about the situation in Indonesia's Aceh province, which was closest to the epicenter of the earthquake.

"Agencies are now starting to beef up their presence, and I think more importantly for us, we're starting to establish presence in Banda Aceh, which we think is one of the biggest concerns," McGoldrick said. "We're actively seeking to strengthen that presence."

Nabarro added: "I'm pretty certain the supplies are there, much more it's distributing those supplies to where they're needed, particularly in areas where the infrastructure's so damaged, like Aceh."



An Acehese covers his nose to avoid the stench of corpses near a village destroyed by the tsunami in Banda Aceh on Indonesia's Sumatra island Thursday. The Aceh province was closest to Sunday's earthquake's epicenter, and U.N. health officials said the wide destruction there will add to the challenge of fighting disease outbreaks.



Citizens make donations for Malaysian victims of Sunday's deadly tsunami in Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday. The Malaysian government on Wednesday canceled New Year celebrations nationwide, urging people to pray this weekend that the country will be spared from future disasters such as the tsunami that killed at least 65 Malaysians.

## Some nations to greet New Year with remembrances for victims

The Associated Press

SINGAPORE — New Year celebrations across Southeast Asia will be turned into remembrance services for those killed or affected by the quake and tsunami, with some events canceled outright.

Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi ordered all government-level celebrations to be canceled and substituted with prayer ceremonies, urging the private sector to do likewise.

"This is not a time to be happy," Abdullah said. Malaysian officials have recovered the bodies of 66 people killed in Sunday's disaster, and are searching for up to 100 still missing.

So far, organizers have scrapped New Year's Eve countdown parties and concerts typical

ly held at landmarks such as the Petronas Twin Towers.

In Hong Kong, the Tourism Commission canceled fireworks displays scheduled for New Year's Eve, New Year's Day and Jan. 2 out of respect for the disaster victims.

Singapore's main arts center said its New Year's Eve performance now would be a remembrance service for the hundreds of thousands killed by the waves spawned by the magnitude 9.0 quake in the seabed off Sumatra's western coast.

A minute's silence will be held at midnight instead of the traditional raucous countdown in the final seconds of the year, and donations will be collected from the audience for Red Cross relief operations, the Esplanade-Theaters on the Bay said.

"This year, in light of the tragedy unfolding around us, it would be more appropriate to usher in the new year in a more contemplative manner," the Esplanade said. "The fireworks planned are best reserved for some other, more appropriate occasion in the future."

Earlier this week as the magnitude of the disaster began to become apparent, the Thai government ordered all official agencies to stop celebrations, including those planned for the New Year.

A big countdown party in Bangkok that was to have been attended Friday by Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and a slew of celebrities has been canceled.

In Germany, organizers of the Berlin New Year celebration asked revelers to make donations to victims of the tsunami rather than spending the money on fireworks.

## Gates Foundation, Amazon.com pitch in

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has pledged \$3 million and Amazon.com has raised more than \$3.5 million in online donations to aid South Asian countries devastated by tsunamis.

Millions of dollars were flowing to relief agencies around the world to supply food, water, shelter and health care to the region.

Microsoft's company offices in Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka

and India are working with relief organizations, a spokeswoman said. The company also is encouraging employees to contribute.

Under an existing program, Microsoft matches charitable donations by its U.S. employees.

Online bookseller Amazon.com began collecting donations for the American Red Cross on its Web site almost immediately, said company spokesman Craig Berman. By Wednesday evening, there had been

60,000 online donations totaling \$3.5 million. The company did the same thing for the agency following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, collecting more than \$6.8 million.

Starbucks Corp. has contributed \$100,000 for international relief organizations — CARE and Oxfam UK. It plans next month to donate \$2 for every pound of Sumatra, Sumatra Decaf and Aged Sumatra whole-bean coffee bought in its stores worldwide.

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## Musharraf stays put

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistan's President Gen. Pervez Musharraf on Thursday accused his political opponents of "threatening the democratic process" as he explained to the nation his decision to renege on a promise to step down as army chief by the end of 2004.

In an uncompromising nationwide televised address, Musharraf, a key ally in the U.S. war on terror, insisted he must continue to hold the post of army chief of staff — the source of most of his power — as well as that of president to ensure continuity.

Opposition groups have been sharply critical of the move.

Nevertheless, Parliament passed a law this month allowing him to stay on in both posts through 2007.

"I have decided to retain both offices. In my view, any change in internal or external policies can be extremely dangerous for Pakistan," he said.

He accused the opposition of "threatening the democratic process" by trying to make political capital from the issue.

## Japan group suicide

TOKYO — Three people were found dead inside a truck in Japan's latest apparent group suicide, police said.

The two men and a woman were found Thursday in Mitama, a central Yamaguchi prefecture, 68 miles west of Tokyo, a police spokesman said on the condition of anonymity.

It was believed that the three died of carbon monoxide poisoning. Two portable stoves containing charcoal were found on the back seat of the truck and the windows were sealed with adhesive tape from the inside, he said.

Suicides in Japan hit a record high last year, exceeding 32,000.

From The Associated Press

# Saudi police pursuing attackers

## Al-Qaida suspected in blasts targeting security forces

BY ABDULLAH AL-SHIHRI

The Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Terrorist plotters were spooked by an encounter with police, leading them to act hastily in launching twin car-bombings that failed to penetrate the security installations they targeted, a Saudi Interior Ministry spokesman said Thursday.

The attacks Wednesday night targeted the Interior Ministry and a recruiting center for the kingdom's anti-terrorism squad. No serious damage was reported, and, while the spokesman said at least 10 militants were killed, only one other person — a limousine driver — was believed to have died.

A Ministry statement early Thursday blamed the assaults on a "deviant group" — a term the government has used in the past to describe al-Qaida. The bombings followed a call by Saudi-born al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden for more attacks on his homeland.

Bin Laden accuses the West, particularly the United States, of seeking to destroy Islam and criticize the Saudi royal family for its alliance with Washington.

A police official said that the leader of al-Qaida in Saudi Arabia, Sultan al-Atabi, was among those killed Wednesday. But more than one person has been named as the possible leader of al-Qaida in Saudi Arabia following the reported deaths of several top suspects.

Al-Atabi is on the government list of most-wanted militants.

Police also said another man from the most-wanted list, Ban-



Saudi policemen guard the house of suspected terrorists following a battle with them in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Saudi police continued their hunt for suspects in strikes on the kingdom's security apparatus. Officials said at least 10 militants were killed along with a bystander.

dar bin Abdel Rahman al-Dikheel, was killed Wednesday. It was not immediately clear whether either was a suicide bomber.

The Interior Ministry spokesman, Brig. Gen. Mansour al-Turki, said the attackers would

have caused more deaths and destruction had the planning not been disrupted by a shootout with police in the capital Tuesday in which one suspect was killed and another captured. Another suspect was killed early Wednesday as police investigated Tuesday's clash.

Al-Turki said preliminary investigation indicated that the arrested militant provided information leading to a house where seven militants were killed on Wednesday shortly after the bombings. Police had said earlier the seven included two who had fled after setting off the Interior Ministry bombing. Al-Turki linked the seven to the bombings, but said none had set off the Interior Ministry blast.

Al-Turki said that besides the seven killed at the house, a total of three attackers were killed at the bomb sites.

The bombings came late in the evening, when few people would have been in the government buildings. But Wednesday night was the beginning of the weekend in the kingdom, so streets were crowded with cars and civilians.

"It is for sure that the terrorist operation was executed hastily," Al-Turki said. "It seemed to be programmed to be executed at a different time and in a different fashion."

Previous attacks seemed designed to maximize casualties, often Arab and Muslim. Saudi officials pressed that point, scoffing at extremists' claims that "infidels" are their targets.

This is a heinous and disturbing crime," Prince Ahmed bin Abdel Aziz, the deputy interior minister, told Saudi TV. "They are not attacking 'infidels.' This is fighting Muslims and citizens."

Andrew Mitchell, a spokesman for the U.S. embassy in Riyadh, issued a message advising Americans in Saudi Arabia to "be aware of their surroundings, exercise caution, and monitor news reports closely."

## MILITARY UPDATE

Tom Philpott

# Some reservists won't benefit from '05 NDAA

When legislative language misfires, Congress can intend one thing and do another. That seems to have occurred last October with passage of the 2005 National Defense Authorization Act.

The NDAA adopts a fairer formula for calculating disability retirement for activated National Guard and Reserve personnel.

However, the initiative to benefit mobilized reservists, at least for now, is written in a way that helps far fewer members than lawmakers hoped. In fact, it leaves behind most Guard and Reserve members who have been seriously wounded in war.

National Guard and Reserve personnel injured while on active duty and awarded disability retirement on or after Oct. 28, 2004, will have their pay calculated using a more generous formula.

The change was proposed by Defense officials after seeing a disturbing disparity in disability retirement between active-duty members and activated reservists injured in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The problem is linked to the "High-3" re-

tirement formula that applies to any member who entered service on or after Sept. 8, 1980. Those who joined earlier, and who serve 20 years, see their annuity based on a percentage of "final" basic pay. Reserves and High-3 see annuities based on a percentage of average basic pay over their highest three years of earning years, usually their last three years of active service.

But three years' active service for a mobilized Guard and Reserve member, to calculate disability retirement, can mean going back to period of service when basic pay was set far below current pay levels. This can sharply lower the value of disability retirement compared to active-duty colleagues. Indeed, older, more

*However, the initiative to benefit mobilized reservists... is written in a way that helps far fewer members than lawmakers hoped. In fact, it leaves behind most Guard and Reserve members who have been seriously wounded in war.*

experienced reservists wounded in Iraq can receive disability pay only half the size of that provided to injured active-duty peers.

With the NDAA, Congress stepped in to require that disability requirements be computed for High-3 Guard or Reserve members as though they had served their last three years on active duty. But the law wasn't written, officials discovered, so it could be applied retroactively to reserve members injured since the war on terrorism began Sept. 11, 2001.

Knowing that was the intent, Defense lawyers and policymakers reviewed the language carefully over the last two months.

They found no way to interpret it more broadly. In late December, officials issued guidance to military finance centers to apply the more favorable High-3 formula only to disability retirements on or after Oct. 28, when the law was signed.

It's too early to assure disabled reservists that the new Congress will vote to move the effective date back to 9/11. But it clearly is out of sync as written with another 2005 NDAA change, this one directing that the more favorable High-3 formula be used to recalculate survivor benefit to families of reservists who died on active after Sept. 10, 2001.

The SBP change helps only a small number of survivors: Most elect to forfeit SBP anyway to accept tax-free Dependency and Indemnity Compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs. It will make a difference to families with small children who have lost reservists on active duty on or after Nov. 24, 2003.

To comment, write Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, VA 22014. E-mail: milupdate@aol.com or visit [www.militaryupdate.com](http://www.militaryupdate.com)



## IN THE STATES

# Congress set to send tsunami aid

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When a new Congress convenes next week, lawmakers will call on the Bush administration to do all it can to help victims of the tsunami in Asia and Africa. Questions of how much aid will be needed — and how to pay for it — will come later.

Lawmakers and congressional aides say the Bush administration should have enough funds available for immediate relief operations without having to request more right away.

But more money will likely be needed at some point to replenish emergency funds depleted by the disaster and to help pay for longer term relief and reconstruction.

The chairman of the House International Relations Committee, Rep. Henry Hyde, said Thursday he will introduce legislation to help victims of the tsunami.

"The challenges of coping with suffering on this magnitude are almost unfathomable, and we will act," Hyde, R-Ill., said.

Some lawmakers say a request could be part of a package expected early next year for \$75 billion to \$100 billion.

A senior Democrat, Patrick Leahy of Vermont, said the ad-

ministration should seek new funds as part of the Iraq package instead of stripping money from existing foreign aid programs, such as those fighting childhood hunger and diseases.

Another option, Leahy said, would be using billions of unspent dollars intended for Iraq reconstruction. The administration has spent little of the \$18.4 billion in reconstruction funds approved by Congress last year, citing security problems and bureaucratic delays.

"That would be the quickest and easiest way because you wouldn't have to hurt the most devastated to help the most devastated," he said.

"The challenges of coping with suffering on this magnitude are almost unfathomable, and we will act."

Rep. Henry Hyde

R-Ill.

ated," said Leahy, top Democrat on the Senate Appropriations foreign operations subcommittee, which oversees foreign aid.

But Rep. Jim Kolbe, an Arizona Republican who chairs the House Appropriations foreign operations subcommittee, cautioned against shifting money from Iraq reconstruction. He said those funds were supposed to be spent over three years.

"It's not as though they haven't spent it because it's not needed," he said.

Kolbe said it is possible — but not certain — that the administration could request relief funds as part of next year's Iraq spending bill.

## A dry run for New York's big night



Times Square Alliance President Tim Tompkins tosses confetti out of his office window in Times Square in New York on Wednesday during the annual "air worthiness test" of the confetti that will be used for the Times Square 2005 New Year's Eve celebration. The simulation is in preparation for the release by hand of 3,000 pounds of confetti from various buildings in Times Square at midnight EST on New Year's Eve.

## Ark. judge rules denying gays foster rights unconstitutional

The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — A state ban on placing foster children in any household with a gay member was struck down when a judge ruled that the state agency enforcing it overstepped its authority by trying to regulate "public morality."

Ruling in a case brought by the Arkansas chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, Pulaski County Circuit Judge Timothy Fox declared the ban unconstitutional Wednesday.

At issue was a 1999 board regulation that said gays cannot become foster parents, and foster children cannot be placed in any home with a gay person.

The ACLU had argued that the regulation violates the equal-protection rights of gays. But the judge's ruling did not turn on that argument.

Instead, Fox noted that the Arkansas Legislature gave the state Child Welfare Agency review board the power to "promote the health, safety and welfare

of children," but the ban does not accomplish that. Rather, he said the regulation seeks to regulate "public morality" — something the board was not given the authority to do.

Rita Sklar, director of the Arkansas chapter of the ACLU, expressed satisfaction with the ruling.

"He made extensive findings of fact and he accepted everything we entered into the record refuting the state's reasons for the regulation, including these ridiculous claims that gay people are more likely to do drugs or have diseases," Sklar said.

Fox cited the testimony of sociologists and psychologists that gay people can be as loving and caring foster parents as heterosexuals, and that the children of gay adoptive parents can be as well-adjusted as those raised by heterosexual couples.

## The flight that wouldn't end

### 300 passengers trapped aboard grounded airplane for 18 hours

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — A 10-hour flight from the Netherlands stretched into 28 as passengers diverted from Seattle-Tacoma International Airport by fog sat on the ground at a central Washington airport, stuck on the plane because of custom regulations.

Food and water ran short for the approximately 300 passengers aboard Northwest Airlines Flight 333, and the toilets stopped working as the hours dragged on. At least two passengers were treated for medical conditions before passengers were finally allowed to stretch their legs late in the evening.

"It's like we're hostages without them in any kind of hostage situation," passenger, Misha Shumilov, a violinist with the Seattle Symphony, told The Seattle Times while on the plane Tuesday night.

The flight finally arrived at

Sea-Tac at 6:26 a.m. Wednesday, 18 hours after its scheduled 12:30 p.m. Tuesday arrival.

Heavy fog at Sea-Tac forced the crew of the DC-10-30 to circle the Seattle airport until fuel ran low and the plane had to be diverted across the Cascade Range to Grant County International Airport in Moses Lake. Since embarking on what was supposed to be a 10-hour nonstop flight from Amsterdam, passengers had already been on the plane for roughly 12 hours by the time it arrived at 2:20 p.m.

Passengers had to wait until another crew arrived from Northwest headquarters in Minnesota. The flight was delayed further after the plane carrying the crew suffered mechanical problems, airline spokeswoman Mary Stanik said. The crew finally wasn't able to leave because of bad weather in Moses Lake, Stanik said.

As passengers waited, food ran out and water had to be rationed.

Pizza and soda were finally brought on board around 8:30 p.m., and the toilets also were eventually serviced.

Despite the Grant County airport's "international" moniker, passengers initially weren't allowed to leave the plane because the airport, a former Air Force base, isn't equipped to screen so many international travelers. They were finally allowed off the plane late in the evening, after airport officials temporarily cleared an airport terminal and posted sheriff's deputies at the entrances, effectively making it an international terminal.

Stanik said passengers would receive a gift pack that included phone cards and vouchers for a free airplane ticket anywhere Northwest flies in the United States and Canada.

"We apologized to our customers for any and all inconvenience," she said.

## FBI exploring lasers directed at cockpits

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Authorities are investigating a mysterious laser beam that was directed into the cockpit of a commercial jet traveling at more than 8,500 feet.

The beam appeared Monday when the plane was about 15 miles from Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, the FBI said.

"It was in there for several seconds like [the plane] was being tracked," FBI agent Robert Hawk said.

The pilot was able to land the plane, and air traffic controllers used radar to determine the laser came from a residential area in suburban Warrensville Heights.

Hawk said the laser had to have been fairly sophisticated to track a plane traveling at that altitude. Authorities had no other leads, and they are investigating whether the incident was a

prank or there was a more sinister motive.

In Colorado Springs, Colo., Monday night, two pilots reported green pulsating laser lights shined into their cockpits. Both the passenger plane and a cargo plane landed without problems.

Police dispatched patrol cars and a helicopter to a neighborhood to investigate but found nothing, FBI agents were continuing to conduct interviews, agency spokeswoman Monique Kelso said.

Federal officials have expressed concern about terrorists using laser beams, which can distract or temporarily blind a pilot.

The FAA mandates that laser light shows must register their locations and the lights cannot be directed above 3,000 feet. Lasers are also often used by construction companies to line up foundations.

Interfering with a commercial flight is a felony punishable by up to five years in prison.



# 25 insurgents killed in assault on U.S. post

BY SLOBODAN LEKIC

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Insurgents tried to ram a truck with half a ton of explosives into a U.S. military post in the northern city of Mosul on Thursday, then ambushed reinforcements in a huge gun battle in which 25 rebels and one American soldier were killed. Warplanes fired missiles and strafed gunmen during the fight.

The assault on the outpost, which U.S. soldiers finally repulsed, appeared to be better coordinated than past attacks, with guerrillas apparently pulling out their strongest assaults in an effort to derail Jan. 30 elections, U.S. military spokesman Lt. Col. Paul Hastings said.

"The terrorists are growing more desperate in their attempts to derail the elections, and they're trying to put it all on the line and give it all they can," Hastings said.

Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city, has become a hotbed of insurgent activity in the past several months. A suicide bomber infiltrated a U.S. base near the city last week, detonating his explosives in a dining tent and killing 22 people, including 18 Americans. The radical Ansar al-Sunnah claimed responsibility for the attack.

Wednesday's clashes began



An Iraqi boy looks out Thursday from the rubble of the building destroyed the day before in Mosul. U.S. troops and warplanes killed at least 25 insurgents as they attacked an American outpost in northern Iraq with a car bomb and explosives. One American soldier died in the ambush.

when a truck approached the base and American troops opened fire. The truck, laden with 1,000 pounds of explosives, blew

up just outside, Hastings said.

Reinforcements came under fire by guerrillas using automatic weapons and rocket-propelled

grenades and moving in squads of between 10 and 12. A heavily armored Styker vehicle that had left the outpost moments before

the truck bomb came across seven roadside bombs that had been laid out for its return, Hastings said. The bombs were detonated safely.

The Americans then called in strikes by F-18 and F-16 fighters, which launched three Maverick missiles and conducted several strafing runs against the insurgents. The result was 25 insurgents and one American soldier killed. Twenty Americans were wounded, but 17 returned to duty within hours.

Insurgents have shown an increasing sophistication in their attacks. In Baghdad on Wednesday, guerrillas used an anonymous tip to lure Iraqi police and national guards to a house in a staunchly Baathist neighborhood. They then set off a massive explosion in the house, killing 22 civilians and seven officers.

The latest clash in Mosul came as U.S. troops launched a new offensive in an area south of the capital dubbed the "triangle of death," in an apparent effort to secure the region ahead of the crucial parliamentary election on Jan. 30.

Brig. Gen. Jeffery Hammond, assistant commander of the 1st Cavalry Division that controls Baghdad, said Wednesday that U.S. troops were focusing on areas around Mahmudiya, a town about 25 miles south of the capital.

## Army tries to repair marriages

BY KIMBERLY HEFLING

The Associated Press

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. — When Sgt. Jose Bermudez returned from Iraq early this year, he came home to a new baby and a troubled marriage.

"We were on the brink of divorce," Mandy Bermudez acknowledged as the couple ate lunch recently with their three children, all under age 3.

The Bermudezes were among 300 couples with the Fort Campbell-based 101st Airborne Division who have attended "marriage enrichment" seminars put on by the Army in hopes of saving war-ravaged relationships.

With studies showing divorce rates as high as about 20 percent over 10 years among couples where one spouse has been sent off to war, the Army is spending \$2 million on a variety of marriage programs, including vouchers for romantic getaways to places like the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tenn.

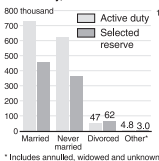
"I've been in the Army 20 years and I've never seen the Army pay for programs like this," said Lt. Col. Chester Egert, chaplain for the 101st.

One program being implemented Armywide teaches couples forgiveness and the skills to communicate. It includes a 40-hour course with lessons on the dan-

## Marriages hurt in times of war

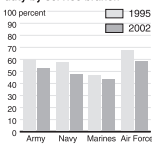
With studies showing divorce rates as high as 21 percent among couples where one spouse has been sent off to war, the Army is spending \$2 million on a variety of marriage programs.

Marital status of the military, 2002



Sources: Military Family Resource Center

Percentage of married active duty by service branch



gers of alcohol and tobacco and how to recognize post-traumatic stress. Soldiers who complete it are rewarded with promotion points and a weekend retreat with their spouse.

"If you learn those skills, you can make an impact on the number of divorces, and the number, we think, of reports of physical violence," said Col. Glen Bloomstrom, director of ministry initiatives for the Chief of Chaplains.

To make the program more desirable, commanders are encouraged to give their soldiers time off to attend. Baby-sitting is often provided.

"What we're trying to do is change the culture, that it's OK to work on your marriage and take some time, and invest in your life-long relationship — especially now when we're asking so much of our military spouses," Bloomstrom said.

Jose Bermudez said it seems as if everyone he knows at Fort Campbell is either getting a divorce or contemplating one. Many couples want to get things decided because the division has been alerted it could return to Iraq as early as mid-2005.

At Fort Campbell and elsewhere, many couples got married right before one spouse left for Iraq. Others, like the Bermudezes, have been married longer but still have spent little time together.

Mandy Bermudez said part of the problem with their marriage was that he had trouble adjusting to the routine she had established for herself while he was in Iraq.

She said the two joined a church, and "it turned our marriage around." He and his wife decided to stay together.

"It's worth it to try and work it out," Jose Bermudez said.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, at least 1,325 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,041 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said.

The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is one lower than the Defense Department's tally; it's not unusual for the figures to differ slightly from day to day.

The British military has reported 76 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 16; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,187 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 932 deaths resulting from

hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A servicemember died Tuesday in a nonhostile incident in Iraq's Anbar province.

The latest identifications reported by the Defense Department:

■ Navy Seaman Pablo Pena Briones Jr., 22, Anaheim, Calif.; died Tuesday of a non-hostile gunshot wound in Fallujah, Iraq; assigned to 1st Marine Division Detachment, Naval Medical Center San Diego.

■ Army Spc. Jose A. Rivera-Serrano, 26, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico; killed Monday by an explosive in Baghdad, Iraq; assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, Fort Hood, Texas.

■ Marine Staff Sgt. Jason A. Lehto, 31, Mount Clemens, Mich.; died Tuesday in a non-hostile incident in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to Marine Forces Reserve, Marine Wing Support Group 4, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, Mount Clemens, Mich.

## Militants warn voters

BAGHDAD — Three Iraqi militant groups issued a joint statement Thursday warning Iraqis not to take part in the upcoming elections and condemning democracy as "un-Islamic."

The statement, posted on the Web site of the Ansar al-Sunnah group, told Iraqis not to be part of "the farce of democracy and elections."

The statement, signed by Ansar

al-Sunnah Army, the Islamic Army in Iraq and the Mujahideen Army, said that democracy could lead to passing un-Islamic laws, such as permitting homosexual marriage, if the majority agrees to it.

On Wednesday, the Ansar al-Sunnah Army issued a statement warning that it will target all those who take part in the elections. The group described polling stations as "centers of atheism."

From The Associated Press



# Report: Ex-U.S. employee defects to N. Korea

BY FRANKLIN FISHER  
Stars and Stripes

PYONGTAEK, South Korea — South Korean authorities are investigating a report that a Korean former employee of the U.S. Army has defected to North Korea.

North Korea's official KCNA news agency said Kim Ki-ho, 59, had worked for the U.S. Army's 6th Ordnance Battalion as a quality assurance specialist at Camp Long, near Wonsu, but defected recently to North Korea. The news agency gave no details as to when or how he reportedly defected.

It said Kim "made the bold decision to come over to the northern half of Korea ... unable to put up any longer with the dis-

graceful South Korean society, disillusioned with it where the nation's dignity, sovereignty and human rights are violated at the hand of the U.S."

Army Col. MaryAnn Cummings, chief spokeswoman for U.S. Forces Korea in Seoul, said: "We can confirm that we had an employee working for USFK of the name Mr. Kim Ki-ho, who was employed from January 1984 to August 2003."

However, said Cummings, "We cannot confirm that it's the same individual that has been reported about, going to North Korea."

Cummings said she was legally barred for privacy reasons from disclosing further details about Kim's U.S. Army employment, including whether he had been involved in a

conflict with his employer, had quit or been fired.

Such privacy restrictions apply to all queries about government employees, not just those about Kim, Cummings said.

She also said she had no immediate word on whether the U.S. military has sent investigators to check Kim's last known South Korea residence to establish his whereabouts, or whether it planned to do so.

Meanwhile, a Wonsu police official told Stars and Stripes on Friday that city records listed Kim at an address later found not to have been his actual residence.

A South Korean National Intelligence Service official told Stars and Stripes on Thursday the agency is working to verify the

North Korean claim. The NIS has established that Kim traveled from South Korea to China, the official said, and then may have crossed from China to North Korea.

The agency now largely is focused on retracing Kim's whereabouts and actions from when he entered China, and what might have motivated a defection, if one occurred, the official said.

In a separate development involving defections, South Korea's Unification Ministry said Thursday 1,890 North Koreans defected to South Korea in 2004, almost 50 percent more than in 2003, the Associated Press reported.

Hwang Hae-rym contributed to this report.

E-mail Franklin Fisher at: fisher@stripes.osd.mil

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CONCESSIONAIRE

## Guam police plan to crack down on New Year's crimes

Stars and Stripes

Guam's Police Department was to step up sobriety checkpoints on roadways throughout the New Year's weekend, the Pacific Daily News reported this week.

Officers were to conduct roving patrols and the department's Highway Patrol Division was to target routes 1, 4, 8, 10 14 and 16 and other areas through Sunday.

The checkpoints are part of an effort to reduce reckless behavior and injuries on what's typically a rowdy weekend on the island.

Guam police said they'll be out in full force, according to Pacific Daily News, looking not only for drunk drivers, but also for people attempting to illegally discharge firearms at midnight.

In the past, island residents have been hurt by falling bullets after people shot guns into the air while celebrating the new year.

### DOD budget cut plan

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon plans to retire one of the Navy's 12 aircraft carriers and buy fewer amphibious landing ships for the Marine Corps as part of \$60 billion in proposed budget cuts over the next six years, congressional and military officials

said. Lt. Fred Bordallo, acting spokesman for Guam Police Department, told Pacific Daily News.

Police also are concerned about child injuries from homemade noise-makers or fireworks and warned parents they could be held accountable if caught endangering their children.

"And we're asking that people who throw New Year's parties to make sure their guests don't overindulge themselves," Bordallo told Pacific Daily News. "There have been cases where parties went out of control and riots have started, and no one wants to be arrested to start the new year."

The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse was to make its Holiday Hotline available throughout the weekend until 6 a.m. Sunday for island residents who may need a ride home after imbibing. The hotline can be reached by calling 647-8833, -8834, -8835, -8836 or -8837.

told The New York Times on Wednesday.

The proposed cuts would, for the first time since the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, slow the growth in Pentagon spending, which has risen 41 percent in that period, to about \$420 billion this year.

Under the proposal, the Navy would retire the carrier USS John F. Kennedy next year. The carrier's retirement would, for the first time since the mid-1990s, reduce the size of the carrier fleet.

In addition, development of the Army's \$120 billion Future Combat System, which is designed to link soldiers by computer with remotely piloted aircraft and combat vehicles, would be delayed.

From staff reports

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**Q** Why the confusion over who was the most frequent guest — Steve Martin, Rodney Dangerfield or Tony Randall — when Johnny Carson hosted "The Tonight Show," 1962-92? Can't the show's producer count? — Don Davidson, Overland Park, Kan.

**A** Jeff Sotzing, Johnny's nephew and head of Carson Entertainment, tells us: "The exact number will never be known. The tapes from the first decade were erased because no one imagined they'd be so valuable one day." Sotzing's records for 1972-92 put Randall in the lead, with 67.

**Q** Critics of the CIA's new head, Porter Goss, say he unfairly blames the spy agency for failures in Iraq that were caused, in fact, by political pressure from the Bush White House. Do you agree with those critics? — Konrad Perlman, Washington, D.C.

**A** No. The CIA's wrong data on Saddam's weapons of mass destruction and the post-war Iraqi resistance were failures of intelligence-gathering and analysis that can't be explained by political pressure. The spy agency has long been in need of a thorough shake-up, and Porter Goss deserves a chance to do it.

**Q** I was sad to hear of the retirement of one of my heroines, Sherry Lansing, who became the first female chairman of a major studio when she joined Paramount in 1992. What are her future plans? — Norma Ryder, Portland, Ore.

**A** "A year is left on my contract," says Lansing, 60. "Then I want to devote myself to philanthropic work in education and health care. It may sound corny, but I want to make the world a better place." Doesn't sound corny to us.

**Q** I heard that Beyoncé's kid sister, Solange, gave birth at 18. True? — Amelia Harris, Birmingham, Ala.

**A** Yes. Solange gave birth to Daniel Julez J. Smith in October. Her new hubby, Daniel Smith, 20, played football for Texas Southern. Reys for Solange, who released an album in 2003, say it's unclear when she'll resume her career. For now, sounds like papa/manager Mathew Knowles will have to settle for one diva in the family.



Beyoncé's little sister, Solange, performs in 2003, before she became a teen mother.



Jesse Metcalfe and Eva Longoria star on the hit ABC series "Desperate Housewives," which tells a darker tale about the goings-on of the typical suburban neighborhood. Typical if all the women on the street are drop-dead gorgeous, that is.

AP

**Q** What's your take on the red-hot ABC series "Desperate Housewives," starring Teri Hatcher and Nicollette Sheridan? — Ron Douglas, Petaluma, Calif.

**A** We're not fans of the prime-time soap, which glamorizes infidelity and promiscuity in the suburbs.

**Q** I enjoyed your Andrews Sisters item. Which brings up a question: What's happened to the Lennon Sisters? — L. Gaun, Langhorne, Pa.

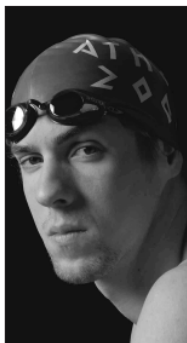
**A** Peggy and Dianne retired, but Kathy, Janet and another sister, Mimi, perform in Branson, Mo., at the Welk Resort," says brother Bill Lennon. Their dad was killed by a deranged fan in 1969. Their mom remarried in 1998 at age 80.

**Q** How do you think Julia Roberts' twins will adjust to the names Phinnaeus and Hazel? — Karen Harada, Hilo, Hawaii

**A** It's hard enough being the children of celebrities without being saddled with oddball names.

**Q** Alfred Lunt and his wife, Lynn Fontanne, were the reigning acting couple from the '20s through the '50s. Is there a couple today that matches their legendary standing? — Barbara Deichmann, Lake Forest, Calif.

**A** Yes. Paul Newman, 79, and Joanne Woodward, 74. They've acted in 10 films together, from "The Long Hot Summer" (1958) to "Mr. & Mrs. Bridge" (1990). And next spring they'll appear in the film "Empire Falls" on HBO. In addition, Newman has directed his wife in four feature films.



SH

Swimmer Michael Phelps poses in those innocent, pre-2004 Olympics days of yore.

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## STARS AND STRIPES

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Stars and Stripes (USPS 417 900) is published daily (except Christmas and New Year's) 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and 811 a.m. on the Stars and Stripes central office, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1301. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, Calif. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO 96337-5002.

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## Accept holiday traditions

In response to several recent letters, I think those serving with me in the Middle East can verify that there are few snow-covered spruce, reindeer or boughs of holly in the areas near where Christianity started. When Christianity spread into northern Europe, early Christians couldn't keep the local holiday (a celebration of the winter solstice) from being celebrated as it had been

for years, so they just accepted it and incorporated it into their own belief system.

While one has the right to voice objections to Christmas being celebrated, my personal recommendation would be to treat it the way early Christians did — keep your beliefs and accept the holiday as it's celebrated currently. Merry (belated) Christmas!

Air Force Maj. Andrew Hardy  
Tallil Air Base, Iraq

## Mallard Fillmore (Jan. 1)



Peter Jennings:  
"I RESOLVE TO CONCEAL ALL THE SMUGNESS...  
...AND DISDAIN THAT MY SMIRK CELEBRATES..."

THE SUPERIOR GRIN...  
I CAN BARELY KEEP IN...  
EVERY TIME I DISCUSS THE 'RED STATES'...

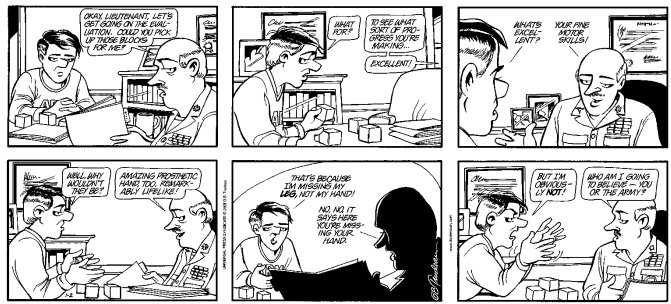
## Doonesbury (Jan. 1 and 2)

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



## DOONESBURY

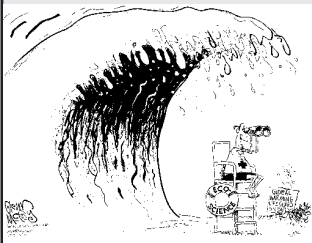
by G.B. Trudeau



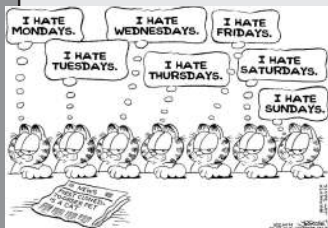


# Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



GLENN MCCOY/Universal Press Syndicate

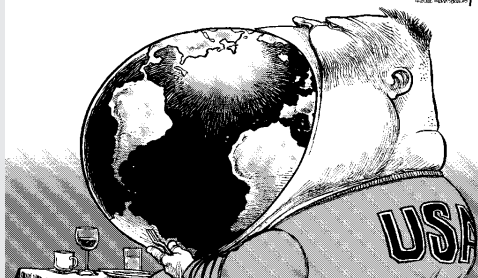


CHARLIE DANIEL/Scripts Howard

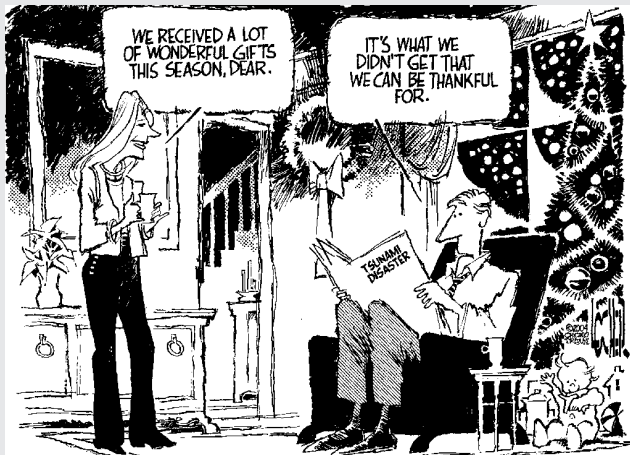


JACK OSHMAN/Tribune Media Services

THE CONSUMER SOCIETY...



DAVID HORSEY/Tribune Media Services



DICK LOCHER/Tribune Media Services



## OPINION

## What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Reservists treated unfairly  
The Repository, Canton, Ohio

For six Ohio reservists convicted of taking parts from abandoned Army vehicles so they could complete a mission in Iraq, the punishment far exceeds the crime. Soldiers who have been in combat will tell you that desperate times call for desperate measures. If those measures include taking parts from an unused vehicle in order for you to function, so be it.

The reservists, who were given six months in prison and dishonorable discharges, were in a no-win situation. Had they failed to carry out their mission, they could have been court-martialed for dereliction of duty.

U.S. Sens. Mike DeWine of Ohio and Dick Durbin of Illinois, and no least an expert on combat than Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz, commander of the allied forces in Iraq, are asking the Army to reconsider. The military is right to expect troops to follow proper procedure, but the letter of the law can't always be upheld during war.

Taser's poor record shocking  
Florida Today, Melbourne

The public arms market with stun guns who wants to give suspects a nonlethal edge over out-of-control suspects. Not every suspect shot with 50,000 volts from a Taser, however, has been out of control. Some have been in custody when repeated shocks ended in their deaths.

Amnesty International has documented 74 Taser-related deaths nationwide since the device was first used in the 1990s, with little testing proves them safe. Taser International of Scottsdale, Ariz., blames other factors and backs medical examiners except when they contradict the company's position.

Meanwhile, more than 5,000 police departments own Tasers. In November, the Transportation Security Administration said they could be used aboard commercial airliners.

When they work, Tasers save lives. ... The technology, however, is too new to know for sure what effect it has on the heart, particularly when drugs are involved. Studies should continue, and departments should review Taser guidelines.

Tasers are supposed to be better than guns. But if they kill when police believe they need to be harmless, they are worse than guns.

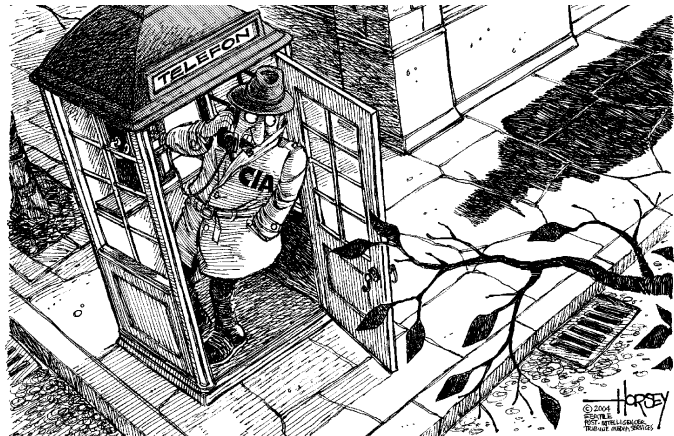
Lack of warning cost lives  
Los Angeles Times

Though it happened on the other side of the world, news of a killer tsunami striking two continents should be seen by Californians as a fundamental local story. Our home, planet Earth, is seriously flawed.

The tsunami ... underscores how global disparities can exacerbate even natural disasters. It turns out that many of the people living in its path were have-nots in more ways than one, as they lacked the advance notice that scientists as far away as Alaska and Hawaii had received about what was about to hit them.

There isn't likely to be a 12/26 commission, nor should we pretend that such calamities can be avoided. Any questions must be asked about the lack of preparedness. Indonesia was too close to the epicenter to benefit from an early warning, but a 12-hour notice could have saved many lives in India and Sri Lanka.

Expect plenty of debate over whether the tsunami should prompt the building of a comprehensive global-warning system. A more sensible approach may be to simply expand the Pacific monitoring system and



"MY COVER'S BLOWN! THEY'RE CLOSING IN!... NO, NOT AL-QAIDA, IT'S THOSE GUYS FROM THE WHITE HOUSE!"

built up emergency mobilization programs in South Asian nations that could be used to respond to a wide variety of calamities.

Right tack can curb drug use  
The News-Picayune, New Orleans

More teenagers are turning their backs on cigarettes and illicit drugs, according to a federal study that looked at 8th-, 10th- and 12th-graders, and the decline in use is certainly encouraging.

But despite these positive trends, there's troubling data in the study that was done by the University of Michigan for the National Institute on Drug Abuse. The use of inhalants, such as glues and aerosols, increased in all three groups after years of decline. The survey showed a slight increase in under-drinking among older teens, and the drug Oxycontin was one of the only illegal substances that showed an increase in use.

While the high cost of cigarettes and stricter marketing controls get some of the credit, anti-smoking ads have had an impact, too. Nearly three-fourths of the 12th-graders surveyed this year said that they would prefer not to date a smoker — up from only a third in 1977.

If young people can be persuaded not to light up because of the risk of cancer, emphysema and heart disease, it's clear that more needs to be done to educate them about the considerable risk involved in using inhalants.

Learn from tsunami disaster  
The Daytona (Fla.) Beach News-Journal

So many deaths. So much devastation. So little warning.

Aid is already pouring into areas affected by the giant waves that smashed into the coastlines of nine countries along the Indian Ocean. Much more will be needed. For every known death, authorities say, there are thousands more who have lost their homes and every possession.

The United States is contributing to early relief efforts, and should do more. Donations also are pouring in through the American Red Cross' International Response Fund.

But even as the immediate needs are met, the world's leaders should take stock of the early warning system for natural disasters around the globe.

The only international warning system currently operates in the Pacific Ocean.

That system detected the underground quake that triggered the tsunami, but frantic attempts to warn affected countries failed because there was no formal system of notification. Officials in some areas such as Thailand — knew of the underwater earthquakes but didn't know about the giant waves they spawned.

Over the coming weeks and months, hundreds of billions of dollars in aid will flow to countries devastated by the tsunami. But even as they plan to assist with disaster relief, nations should consider investing in a system that could help to prevent such tragedy in the future.

Bipartisanship: A capital idea  
The Post-Standard, Syracuse, N.Y.

"I earned capital in the campaign, political capital, and now I intend to spend it," President Bush said in his postelection news conference.

The question is, how will Bush spend that capital, and how far it will go?

So it was surprising to see the White House last [month] poke a stick in the eye of congressional Democrats. Bush announced he would resubmit the names of 29 judicial candidates whom the Democrats had blocked during his first term.

That's Bush's prerogative, of course. But is this the wisest use of political capital? Consider the response of Sen. Charles Schumer, the New York Democrat who will be front and center during confirmation hearings in the Senate Judiciary Committee: "In this opening shot, the White House is making it clear that they are not interested in bipartisanship when it comes to nominating judges."

Merely sending these judicial nominees back for another review may have cost Bush some of his political capital. Draw-out fights to push one or more of them through to confirmation could quickly drain his account.

Know each area's EMT needs  
Grand Forks (N.D.) Herald

The situation is this, the Herald and The Associated Press have reported: A national committee is revisiting the rules for licensing emergency medical technicians. The committee has useful ideas for beefing up and standardizing EMT training, adding such skills as injecting epinephrine to people suffering severe allergic reactions.

The trouble is that the new curriculum

could more than double the time EMTs must train to get certified, the story reported.

Currently, EMTs need 110 hours of training to get their initial certification.

Aid volunteers already are hard to come by, ambulance personnel in rural North Dakota and elsewhere reported. If the requirement jumps to 200-plus hours, the task will be extremely difficult or even impossible, they predicted.

They have a point. This situation fulfills the classic saying: "The perfect is the enemy of the good." The good in this case is the way things are right now; volunteer EMTs in rural areas can't do everything, but they can stabilize most patients, rendering basic first aid and transporting them to the hospital. That will change if would-be volunteers are scared off by the training requirements.

The proposed rule sounds great for professional firefighters and others who get paid for their work and some of the training they undertake. But it shouldn't apply to rural areas if it will make things worse rather than better.

It's no secret: Sources help  
Herald-Journal, Spartanburg, S.C.

Across the nation, reporters are being questioned about confidential sources and even being threatened with jail.

Two reporters have been convicted of contempt of court for refusing to reveal their sources about an investigation into how the White House compromised the identity of a CIA operative.

In several places around the nation, federal authorities are subpoenaing reporters and threatening them with incarceration unless they reveal the identities of sources to whom they had promised confidentiality.

What's at stake is the ability of the public to learn what the government is doing and the ability of the news media to uncover corruption at all levels of government and society.

Many, if not most, of the scandals that have been uncovered by the media have been started by unnamed sources. Someone close to the scandal is fed up with what his cronies are doing. He tells a reporter and begs that reporter to keep his identity secret. The reporter complies.

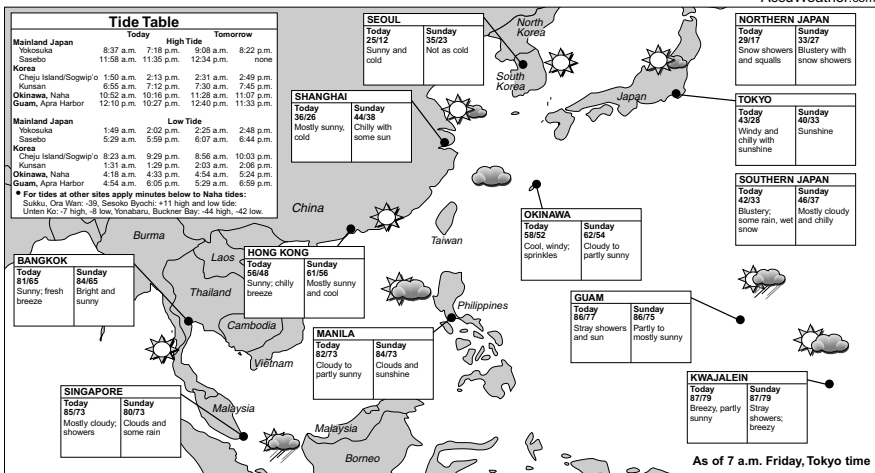
This process is necessary to uncovering the stories that let citizens know what is going on, particularly when government or business officials do things they shouldn't.



# The Pacific Forecast

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## Extended Forecasts

**TOKYO**  
 Monday: Mostly sunny, high 48, low 41.  
 Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 52, low 30.

**KADENA**  
 Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 66, low 60.  
 Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 70, low 56.

**SEoul**  
 Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 86, low 73.  
 Tuesday: Sunny, high 28, low 14.

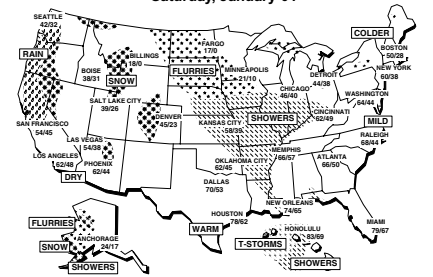
**MANILA**  
 Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 86, low 73.  
 Tuesday: Showers, high 86, low 75.

**HAGATNA**  
 Monday: Partly sunny, high 86, low 77.  
 Tuesday: Showers, high 86, low 77.

## Thursday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	56/33	Los Angeles	62/50
Amarillo	72/34	Little Rock	70/56
Anchorage	14/8	Louisville	57/54
Ashville	63/39	Miami	78/67
Baltimore	51/39	Milwaukee	48/42
Birmingham	67/48	Nashville	65/53
Bismarck	35/12	New York	46/40
Boise	44/31	Omaha	66/40
Boston	39/32	Orlando	76/55
Brownsville	81/62	Philadelphia	50/39
Buffalo	43/40	Phoenix	68/52
Burlington	33/25	Pittsburgh	51/45
Charleston, SC	71/43	Portland, OR	46/38
Charlotte	65/44	Portland, ME	35/21
Cleveland	50/44	Salt Lake City	47/37
Columbus, OH	51/44	San Louis	65/54
Duluth	33/21	San Antonio	75/58
El Paso	68/42	San Diego	62/52
Cincinnati	43/29	San Juan	84/72
Helena	30/16	Tampa	77/58
Indianapolis	55/50	Tulsa	73/50
Jacksonville	71/48	Washington	51/42
Kansas City	69/47	Wichita	69/42

## Saturday, January 01



## U.S. Extended Forecast

The new year will start off on a wet note Saturday across the West Coast as rain continues to impact coastal Oregon and northern California with some snow over the mountains. Meanwhile, another storm system will bring snow to the northern Plains. Gustly winds accompanying this storm will cause some snow to blow, reducing visibilities. Ahead of this system, rain will develop over the northern Plains and push into the Midwest as the day progresses. A few showers will dampen the Ohio Valley. While the Southeast has mild temperatures with some sunshine, colder air will filter into the Great Lakes in the wake of a cold front. This front will trigger flurries across northern New England.

## Saturday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	81/65	Wakani	31/19
Beijing	37/19	Kadena AB	58/52
Camp Casey	28/12	Kunsan AB	32/22
Diego Garcia	58/42	Kwajalein	87/79
Hagatna	86/77	Manila	82/73
Hanoi	88/48	Misawa AB	30/22
Hong Kong	56/48	Osan	29/13
Honolulu	83/69	Perth	53/44
		Pusan	37/25

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Sasebo NB	41/29	Sapporo	29/17
Seoul	25/12	Shanghai	36/28
Singapore	85/73	Sydney	88/67
Taegu	34/18	Taipei	53/44
Tokyo	43/28		

## Saturday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	90/73	Budapest	36/32	Katol	93/72	Kiev	28/20
Athens	51/38	Buenos Aires	93/72	Kiew	28/20	New Delhi	71/42
Auckland	67/53	Cairo	77/54	Kuwait	80/57	Oslo	39/30
Baghdad	76/52	Cancun	78/66	London	48/34	Paris	43/36
Barbados	87/70	Cape Town	77/58	Madrid	54/43	Rio de Janeiro	79/87
Barcelona	55/45	Geneva	39/35	Mexico City	72/41	Rome	48/39
Berlin	41/32	Istanbul	48/36	Montreal	35/2	St. Petersburg	29/19
Bermuda	68/59	Jerusalem	66/52	Mogadishu	86/70	Stockholm	36/33
Brussels	43/33	Johannesburg	85/61	Moscow	30/17	Warsaw	39/30



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## YOUR MONEY



The Forum Shops at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas are crowded with shoppers Dec. 17. High-end luxury shopping has become a tourist attraction for Las Vegas, especially during the holidays.

## Stores bringing more temptation to Sin City

BY CRISTINA ALMEIDA  
The Associated Press

**LAS VEGAS** — Just before a luxury shopping mall opened at Caesars Palace in 1992, the mall's marketing director, Maureen Crampton, stood behind the closed doors and thought to herself, "I do hope somebody is on the other side."

She need not have worried. The Forum Shops is one of the most successful malls in the country, and high-end shopping has become one of the biggest pastimes in America's gambling capital.

Gucci, Prada and Dior are now neighbors along a glittered stretch of the Bellagio hotel-casino. Neiman Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue and Nordstrom anchor the expansive Fashion Show mall farther down the Las Vegas Strip. And boutiques like Burberry, Mikimoto and Jimmy Choo are inside the Venetian hotel-casino.

"Shopping has become an incredible part of the allure of Las Vegas," said Hal Rothman, Las Vegas historian and author. About 36 million tourists visit the city each year. A recent survey by MRC Group Research Institute found that nearly as many visitors said they shopped (63 per-

cent) as gambled (69 percent) during their stay. Tourists spent an estimated \$2.9 billion shopping last year.

Casino executives discovered that allowing customers to wander away from the gambling floor might be good for business — as long as they kept spending their money on the property.

"Your spouse is allowed a flat \$50 Per Diem Allowance based on driving 350 miles per day. You and your children also receive a per diem that is a percentage of your spouse's rate."

"Shopping is one chance for the casinos to recapture some of the money they paid out to the winners," said Keith Schwer, director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. "If you have millions of people visiting, walking by, all you have to do is capture a small percentage of them to be profitable."

The Forum Shops, where a three-story spiral escalator whisks customers high above the Italian marble flooring, produced average annual sales of \$1,471 per square foot in October. That is well above the industry's national average of \$345 in 2003.

SEE VEGAS ON PAGE 23

# Previewing military move should cut down on costs

Susie Besaw, from the book "The Savvy Sailor's Spouse," is new to the military lifestyle but is eager to learn more about how to manage her family and her new lifestyle through the monthly Family Readiness Group meetings of her husband Jake's new command.

Editor's note: This is the final installment from "The Savvy Sailor's Spouse."

**A**t our December Family Readiness Group meeting Laurie from the Personal Property Office came to talk to us about the military move. After running through our agenda, Laurie came to the front and began, "The purpose of this hour-long presentation is to help you understand the basic finances of a military move. Don't expect to be an expert on the military move when I'm done. It takes time and effort to do it right."

"Once you have your paperwork, work with your PPSO representative to figure out what your moving allowances will be. Then, work backward to figure out how much the moving experience is going to cost you."

"Remember, the goal is to make the move cost as close to nothing for you as possible. Planning is the only way to make sure that happens."

"There are six basic sources of moving income from the government when moving within CONUS."

### Money U.

"The biggest is the Dislocation Allowance or DLA. It is usually a multiple of your BAH."

"Next is your Monetary Allowance for Transportation, or MALT. MALT is a reimbursement for driving your car to your next duty station. Be sure to use the Official Military Table of Distances when calculating it."

"Your spouse is allowed a flat \$50 Per Diem Allowance based on driving 350 miles per day. You and your children also receive a per diem that is a percentage of your spouse's rate."

"If you don't take house-hunting leave, you are eligible for Temporary Lodging Expense (TLE), within 10 days of arriving at your new duty station."

"Finally, there are two advances your sailor can get from the Navy in order to help you make ends meet during your move: Advance Base Pay and Housing Allowance. A sailor also needs to have justification for these advances signed and approved by their chain of command in order to receive it. Remember, these are not a given. Also, both have to be paid back through deductions in your spouse's pay over the next year or so."

"I recommend you request advance funds only if it is absolutely necessary. I've seen too many mili-

## San Diego to Jacksonville moving costs

INCONUS	Item	Amount Notes
<b>Moving Income</b>		
Dislocation Allowance (DLA)	-1,195	2 months' BAH
Monetary Allowance (MALT)	+468	2,339 miles to Jacksonville
Per Diem Allowance	+788	Flat rate
Temporary Lodging Expense (TLE)	-	No house hunting
Advance Basic Pay	-	Loan
Advance BAH	-	Loan
<b>Total Moving Income</b>	<b>+2,451</b>	
<b>Moving Expenses</b>		
7 Day House Hunting Trip	-	Wife and kid
Round trip plane fare for 2	-1,400	
Lodging for 2	-350	\$50/night
Food	-280	\$20 x 2 people x 7 days
Misc	-300	
Move out of old rental San Diego	-	
Cleaning/Repair	-100	
Deposit Return	+2,100	1.5 mo SD BAH
7 Days driving to Jacksonville	-	All 3 family
Gas	-164	\$17.5/gal, 25 mpg
Lodging for 3	-350	\$50/night
Food	-420	
Misc	-300	
Renting new place Jacksonville	-	
Deposit	-1,350	1.5 mo Jax BAH
Move-in costs	-500	
<b>Total Moving Expenses</b>	<b>-3,414</b>	
<b>Net Moving Expense</b>	<b>-963</b>	Out of pocket cost

Source: Ralph Nelson

Stars and Stripes

tary families spend this lump sum of money on things they didn't really need and then suffer the consequences of smaller pay checks and mounting debt. If you do receive an advance, please think twice about what you're spending it on. You're actually borrowing money from yourself, so be careful."

"In the example I just gave you, I've assumed that the sailor's spouse and child fly across country to find a place to rent, then the family of three drives from San Diego to Jacksonville, Fla., over a week. Finally, they move into the home the spouse found while house-hunting when they arrive in Jacksonville."

"Hey, the family in this example is spending almost a grand of their own money on their move," someone noted. "I thought you said the goal was to try to break even."

"I gave you a bleak example on purpose so we could look for ways to break even. Let's talk about ways to reduce this bill, Laurie said."

Even though everyone in the room was quiet, I could tell many were trying to think of a solution. My mind was blank. Jake and I are doing OK, but \$1,000 was a lot of money to pay for a job-opening trip.

"How about not taking the house-hunting trip?" Sammy asked. "That'd save \$2,330."

"Good idea," Laurie replied. "In this example, the sailor is sending his spouse and child back East. He could take the leave instead

and leave his family in San Diego, fly MAC, stay in the BEQ, and eat in the galley and only spend about \$500, saving \$1,830. Either way, you need to find ways to save \$963 in this example."

"Again, I think it's important to take the house-hunting trip. Moving is hard enough, but it's a real pain if you don't have somewhere to move into."

The memory of the hassle of not having a place when I arrived in San Diego was still fresh.

Laurie continued, "Somebody give me one more way to make your move less expensive."

"How about selling your old appliances," Sammy replied.

"Excellent," Laurie said. "A garage sale, eBay or even placing classified ads in the local newspaper for the bigger items you don't want to move are excellent ideas."

"The list of ways to make your move a less expensive one is endless. Walk through your entire move — before you move — to find the most value."

Copies of Ralph Nelson's books — "The Savvy Sailor" and "The Savvy Naval Officer" — can be purchased by writing to the author on Stars and Stripes, P.O. Box 10071, Rockville, MD 20849 or online at [www.savvyonline.com](http://www.savvyonline.com). This article is written and the book is sold with the understanding that neither the author nor Stars and Stripes are professional financial advisers. If you need advice, please seek professional assistance. The author specifically disclaims any liability, loss or risk — personal or otherwise — incurred as a consequence, directly or indirectly, of using or applying any of the information contained in this article or the book. Contact for feedback: [finance@stripes.osd.mil](mailto:finance@stripes.osd.mil)







## Airborne birth

**AK** KETCHIKAN — The term "airborne" took on a new meaning when a woman gave birth high above Southeast Alaska on a floatplane that was evacuating her after her labor began earlier than expected.

The baby girl was delivered safely to Jennifer Chinuhuk aboard a Pacific Airways floatplane. Isabelle Chinuhuk weighed in at 5 pounds, 9 ounces, and was 19½ inches long.

Jennifer and husband Jamie Chinuhuk had not expected the birth of Isabelle until mid-January when Jennifer's labor began on Sunday, a medical evacuation was arranged and she was brought to the Metlakatla dock by ambulance.

Two doctors were on the flight, but Jamie Chinuhuk had to stay behind because there was not enough room on the plane.

## Dentist pleads guilty

**FL** BOCA RATON — A dentist pleaded guilty to aggravated manslaughter in the death of his 3-year-old son, accidentally left in a parked vehicle in July.

Dennis Sierra, 43, entered the plea to avoid the anguish of a trial, his attorney said.

The judge sentenced Sierra to 10 years of probation and 500 hours of community service.

Sierra took his son Andres to work with him July 15 at his practice west of Boca Raton. He parked and went inside, forgetting that his son was in a car seat in the back, according to sheriff's officials.

## Youthful diets

**NH** ROCHESTER — Now that the junk food is gone, officials will be monitoring middle school pupils' middles to see if they shed any extra pounds.

The Health and Nutrition Task Force formed last March to tackle obesity in schools will determine whether healthier snacks make a difference in reducing obesity, said its founder, Walter Hoerman, a pediatrician.

A student's aerobic capacity, body composition and muscle strength, endurance and flexibility will be measured in fitness grams. Activities such as running times, pull-ups, shoulder stretches and curl-ups are all part of the tests.

Students are compared not to each other, but to health fitness standards, established for each age and gender, according to the Cooper Institute, which developed the fitness gram.

## Air passengers take bus

**IA** DES MOINES — Welcome and thank you for using Des Moines International Airport! Please have your boarding pass and ID ready as you approach the bus. A combination of two canceled flights and holiday travel snags forced United Airlines to bus passengers about 330 miles to Chicago to catch connecting flights.

Passengers said they were told the next United flight from Des Moines to Chicago with any extra room will be Thursday or Friday, so United chartered two buses



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Monday and another Tuesday to send passengers on their way.

A United spokesman attributed the travel problems to snowstorms that socked the Northeast over the weekend and left the airline short-staffed across the country.

## School district grows

**ID** MERIDIAN — Idaho's fastest-growing school district intends to ask taxpayers for \$80 million in bonding next year to cover growth in western Ada County. The district had planned for 400 new students to arrive in September, but 1,400 showed up.

Another 175 arrived between Sept. 1 and Nov. 1. The bonds would be used to build a new high school, a new middle school and up to four elementary schools.

## Smuggling 'Santa'

**OH** CLEVELAND — The packages were labeled as toys for good girls and boys and the business was called Santa's Helpers. But authorities say the packages were nothing more than a naughty ruse to cover a large-scale drug smuggling operation.

The bogus business tried to smuggle \$7.8 million worth of cocaine from Los Angeles to nearby Willoughby, authorities said.

Drug agents seized about 175



## Colorful sky

A clear, winter sky is draped by jet trails and the glow of the sun as it falls behind an S&S Feed Mills in Shawnee, Okla.

pounds of cocaine in the largest seizure in Cleveland this year.

Four 55-gallon steel drums used as shipping containers raised suspicions. Billing information said the barrels contained toys, novelties and games.

Federal prosecutors charged Edward Boynton, 35, of Inglewood, Calif., with intent to possess cocaine. Boynton appeared in U.S. District Court.

## Senator back in prison

**NY** NEW YORK — Former state Sen. Guy Velella returned to Riker's Island prison. A state judge refused to issue an interim stay that would keep Velella free while the state's highest court decides whether to hear his appeal. The former Bronx lawmaker stepped down earlier this year, a week before he pleaded guilty to a charge in connection with an influence-peddling scheme.

## Rating child care centers

**AZ** PHOENIX — A state board is developing a rating system for licensed child care centers to help parents determine the quality of the 2,000 centers in the state. The Arizona School Readiness Board would use criteria like teachers' education level, student-to-teacher ratios and curriculum. The governor has said a rating system should include financial incentives for centers.

## Fighting invasive plants

**WV** HARPERS FERRY — Officials at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park are trying to rid the park of some unwanted guests: invasive plants that could crowd out native growth.

One of these invasive plants, known as Tree-of-Heaven, robs moisture from the soil and its canopy blocks out sun to other plants, according to park Superintendent Donald Campbell.

Campbell and other park employees are concerned about how the tree is affecting native trees such as dogwoods, oaks and maples.

The park, which is located at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers, stretches across parts of West Virginia, Virginia and Maryland.

So far, no native species have been lost, even though many of the invasive species have been there since the land became part of the National Park System in 1944, according to Campbell. He believes the native species can be saved if park officials act immediately to save them.

## Must disclose names

**OH** COLUMBUS — A pro-business group that spent \$4 million on a TV campaign to unseat a justice must disclose donors' names, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled. The court dismissed the group's appeal, saying it did not involve any substantial constitutional question. The Ohio Elections Commission ordered the group in 2002 to list donors. It said the ad against Justice Alice Robie Resnick went beyond what "issue advocacy" groups are allowed to do.



## Unusual pet

Melissa Packard walks with her daughter, Charlotte, 5, as Goldie, an orphaned buck, gives chase in Hill Country Village, a suburb of San Antonio. Packard said the buck was left by its mom, who did not return for several days. The family took in the deer, feeding and caring for it.



## Playing in the park

Greg and Annie Moore of Kearney, Neb., play some basketball at Pioneer Park. The couple brought their children and the dog to the park on a sunny afternoon.





## Practice makes perfect

From left, Becky Christian, 11, and Sarah Rordan 12, practice figure skating on the frozen lagoon in Sacajawea Park in Livingston, Mont.



## Watch your head

Market Studios North co-owner Daniel Brown peers out of the studio's second-floor window to take a look at the numerous icicles that have formed along the building in Troy, Ohio.



## Fruitless effort

Nadine Correa, 8, top, stands on top of Amanda Benavides's shoulders and reaches with a borrowed fishing pole in an effort to retrieve a kite stuck on the top of a light pole in Corpus Christi, Texas.



## Sweet trap

A squirrel attempts to shake its head loose from the top of an ice cream treat in Daytona Beach, Fla.

## Shrimping extension

**GA** BRUNSWICK — Georgia's shrimping season has been extended indefinitely because of an abundant shrimp population. The season was to end at 5 a.m. New Year's Day before the state Department of Natural Resources extended it. Affected are commercial trawlers in Georgia territorial waters up to 3 miles offshore and recreational shrimpers using cast nets and beach seines.

## Feather fight

**UT** SALT LAKE CITY — A battle is brewing over the rights of whites who practice American Indian religion to use federally restricted eagle feathers in ceremonies.

Two federal statutes — the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act — limit the right to have the feathers to members of federally recognized tribes. The feathers are the most powerful objects in the culture's ceremonies, and tribal members must earn the right to handle them.

Many tribal members, backed up by the federal government, say feathers and other eagle parts should be reserved for American Indians as a way of preserving the culture.

The federal laws make an exception for enrolled tribal members who practice an American Indian religion, allowing such members to get a permit to possess eagle feathers and parts.

## She wants it all now

**MA** BOSTON — A 94-year-old woman who won a \$5.6 million dollar Megabucks lottery drawing in September wants to get the cash now instead of a 20-year annuity payout.

Louise Outing of Everett said she won't live to collect her full winnings, and she wants to be able to help her family and spend the money as she chooses.

On Tuesday, she asked Norfolk Superior Court Judge Barbara Dorch-Okara to order the state lottery commission to give her the full amount of her winnings, minus taxes.

But the lottery commission said Megabucks winners have never been paid lump-sum amounts. Executive Director Joseph Sullivan said only the multistate Mega Millions game offers a lump-sum option.

## Careful what you drink

**CA** SALINAS — About 30,000 customers of California Water Service Co. were urged to boil tap water before drinking or cooking after power outages caused the water system's pressure to drop. The company said it won't know whether water quality was affected until tests are completed Wednesday. Customers will be reimbursed for bottled water purchases.

## Driving doggie

**AK** SPRINGDALE — Michael Henson left the auto parts store with more problems than he was hired. For that, he can thank his dog.

Henson, whose truck had been

experiencing a sticking throttle, left his dog in the truck when he went into the O'Reilly Auto Parts store in Springdale on Sunday.

"He'd left the truck running — I guess to show the people at O'Reilly's — and the dog jumped over and knocked the truck into gear," police Sgt. Billy Turnbough said.

The truck raced into the building, stunning Henson and clerk Josh Hopper.

No one was hurt and no citations were issued, police said.

## High foreclosures rate

**PA** SUNBURY — Mortgage foreclosures in Northumberland County are approaching an all-time high, according to the Sheriff's Department. Maria Birster, the real estate officer, reports 191 sheriff's sales so far this year. She says that's up from 159 in 2003 and more than the 187 mortgage foreclosures recorded in 2002.

Birster says all the foreclosures have been on homes.

## Hand fishing test

**MO** COLUMBIA — Next summer, it will be legal to plunge into some Missouri rivers and grab catfish by hand — a type of fishing that is not for the faint of heart.

Known variously as noodling or hogging, handfishing has long been a misdemeanor punishable by fines, because state officials fear it depletes breeding-age catfish. It can also be dangerous: Noodlers hold their breath for long periods under water and sometimes come up with fistfuls of agitated snakes or snapping turtles instead of fish.

That does not discourage enthusiasts, who insist there is great sportsmanship in fishing with your bare hands.

So after years of urging by noodlers, and lopsided legislative support for easing up on handfishers, the Missouri Conservation Commission has approved an experimental handfishing season next summer. Forms of handfishing are already legal in 11 states, including neighboring Oklahoma, Arkansas and Illinois.

## Florida Hall of Fame

**FL** TALLAHASSEE — Marion Hammer, a former president of the National Rifle Association, was named to the Florida Women's Hall of Fame by Gov. Jeb Bush. Also named were Shirley Coletti, considered a leader in the development of community-based treatment of mental health, and Judith Kersey, who has spent 36 years as a scientist and advocate for women in science.

## Fighting school dropout

**MA** SPRINGFIELD — Mayor Charles Ryan appointed an 11-member youth commission to combat a rising high school dropout rate and a surge in violent crime. The panel is charged with improving academic and social opportunities for Springfield children. Springfield's dropout rate in 2003 was 8.5 percent, more than double the statewide rate of 3.3 percent.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



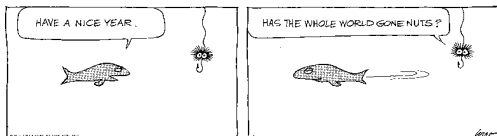




Fox Trot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



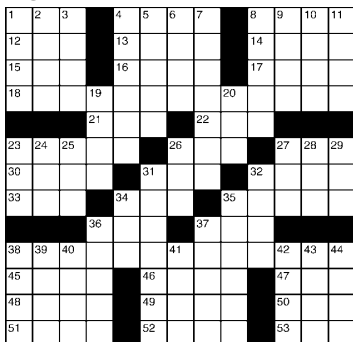
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

1 Support system?

4 Needing a retreat

8 Lose intentionally

12 Predetermine

13 Admit

14 Bellow

15 Expert

16 Latvia's capital

17 Con

18 "Joy to the World" band

21 West of Hollywood

22 George Burns role

23 Sea World attraction

26 Prepare to drag race

27 Possessive pronoun

30 Unencumbered

31 Massachusetts cape

32 Left

33 Wapiti

34 Michael Jackson album

35 Hardly graceful

36 Director's call

37 New York newspaper

38 Hit song of 1983

45 Stead

46 Plate selections

47 Whatever amount

48 Exam format

49 Ontario neighbor

50 Fry the tea

51 Fringe benefit

## Down

1 Baby sitter's woe

2 Opulent supply

3 Antiquing apparatus

4 Dresser

5 Remark to the crowd

6 Toy block name

7 Seemed endless

8 Three-strand interweave

9 Time-consuming

10 Pledge

11 Legal document

19 Tube trophy

20 Election Day abbr.

23 "I tried to warn you"

24 Actor Holbrook

25 Send out questionnaires

26 Scepter

27 Chop

28 Cartoonist's

29 Unkempt home

31 Ball player

32 Desire

33 Bargain

34 Tailoring insert

35 Make leakproof

36 He played

37 Bueller's teacher

38 Rubbish

39 Drain the energy from

40 Stern

41 Emanation

42 Tabula

43 Computer operating system

44 Category

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## I-I

## CRYPTOQUIP

Q F A X Q U U Q U - L Q R W K

A W U K O N Q U I Q O H F A I W N

P U Q H G A U K L W G W I O W G E

Q R K U N X K W U E Q U T A P T I.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE AMBIGUOUS AND HUMOROUS NEWSPAPER HEADLINE READS "RED TAPE HOLDS UP NEW BRIDGE."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals R



# Starting the New Year positively

**Dear Abby:** Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the column you printed last New Year's Day. My mother is always cutting out articles for me. The majority end up in the trash. But that one is taped to my bathroom wall. I read it every day on my way out. If I'm having a bad day, I think about it. Please print it again for me and others.

Mine is a little tapered.

— Heather in Florida  
Dear Heather: With pleasure.

**Dear Readers:** Rise and shine, and welcome to 2005! This is our chance for a new beginning, the day we discard destructive old habits for healthy new ones. With that in mind, I'm printing Dear Abby's oft-requested list of New Year's resolutions — adapted by my mother from the original credo of Al-Anon.

## Dear Abby



JUST FOR TODAY, I will live through this day only. I will not brood about yesterday or obsess about tomorrow. I will not set far-reaching goals or try to overcome all my problems at once. I know that I can do something for 24 hours that would overwhelm me if I had to keep it up for a lifetime.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will be happy. I will not dwell on thoughts that depress me. If my mind fills with clouds, I will chase them away and fill it with sunshine.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will accept what I will face reality. I will correct those things I can correct and accept those I cannot.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will improve my mind. I will read something that requires effort, thought and concentration.

I will not be a mental footer.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will

make a conscious effort to be agreeable. I will be kind and courteous to those who cross my path, and I'll not speak ill of others. I'll improve my appearance, speak softly, and not interrupt when someone else is talking. Just for today, I'll refrain from improving anybody but myself.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will do something positive to improve my health. If I'm a smoker, I'll quit. If I'm overweight, I'll eat healthily — only just for today.

And not only that, I'll get off the couch and take a brisk walk, even if it's only around the block.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will gather the courage to do what is right and take responsibility for my own actions.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uepress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DYLLA

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FARCS

CADILP

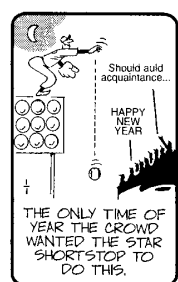
BLOHD

Answer:  THE

Yesterday's Jumbles: REARM MERGE MULISH CAMPUS

Answer: The forecaster described the heat wave as — A SUMMER SIMMER

## THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Arginon



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon. (Answers Monday)

# A holiday poem to lighten the mood

## Dear Readers:

Happy New Year! A faithful reader sent us this poem, and we hope it will amuse you. We don't know the author, but we enjoyed the sentiment:

The Week After Christmas 'Twas the week after Christmas, and all through the house Nothing would fit me, not even a blizzard. The cookies I'd nibbled, the eggnog I'd taste At the holiday parties had gone to my waist. When I got on the scales, there arose such a number! When I walked to the store (less a walk than a lumber), I'd remember the marvelous meals I'd prepared; The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rare, The wine and the rum balls, the bread and the cheese And the way I'd never said, "No thank you, please." As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt And prepared once again to do battle with dirt, I said to myself,

## Annie's Mailbox



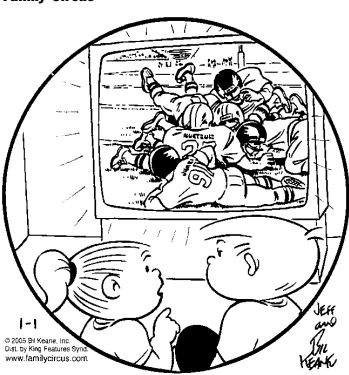
as I only can  
"You can't spend a winter disguised as a man!"  
So — away with the last of the sour cream dip,  
Get rid of the fruit cake, every cracker and chip.  
Every last bit of food that I like must be banished.  
Til all the additional ounces have vanished.  
I won't have a cookie — not even a lick.  
I'll want only to chew on a long celery stick.  
I won't have hot biscuits, or corn bread, or pie.  
I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry.  
I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore.  
But isn't that what January is for?  
Unable to giggle, no longer a riot,  
Happy New Year to all, and to all a good diet!

**Dear Annie:** I am a disabled

woman and the blessed owner/handler of a Service Dog. Brandy goes everywhere with me, and many people ask questions. I usually don't mind answering, but I have some suggestions for your readers. Be polite. Please ask me if it's OK before attempting to speak to or pet the dog. If I tell you "no," please accept it graciously. My dog is working. While Brandy is trained to ignore you, even a moment's inattention on the dog's part can cause me injury. Please give us the room we need to safely negotiate stairs, elevators, aisles, etc. Do not feed the dog. For many of us, our dogs have given us back some measure of normalcy and independence. Things are hard enough without being stared at, whispered about, pointed at and interrogated.

— D.F. and Brandy in New Jersey  
Dear D.F. and Brandy: Readers, take note. Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 577 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

## Family Circus



"Did I hear him right? He said that guy coughed up the football!"

## GRAFFITI

WOMEN DEMAND THE TRUTH NO MATTER HOW FLATTERING  
WBR 1/1/05

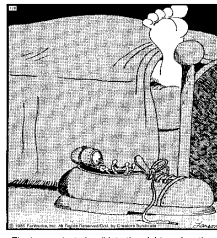
## Dennis the Menace



"O! RUFFE NOT CHASIN' HIS TAIL, HE'S NAKIN' HIS NEW YEAR'S REVOLUTIONS!"

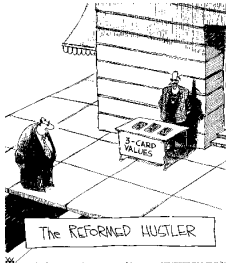
## @ Gary Larson

The Far Side



The kenger lasted well into the night, and on the following morning Dale thrust his foot into a nest of cranky, hung over, stimulus-response scorpions.

## Non Sequitur



The REFORMED HUSTLER



# Sunday Horoscope

It's a day to "make nice" — especially if all the hottheaded energy zinging around lately has caused you to accidentally "make mean." With the Capricorn sun urging us to get ahead and other planets in Sagittarius lighting a fire under that pursuit, it's easy to be hasty or harsh. The Libra moon gives us just the right words to use in our apology.

## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(January 2). When it comes to relationships, you're just plain lucky. It's an incredible year for advancement in your house of marriage and other partnerships if you're willing to fully embrace change. Next month, experiment with new approaches to old problems. Serious soul searching serves you well in February. Love signs are Cancer and Virgo.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Your mind has a conversation with itself. This doesn't mean you are crazy; it means you are sorting things through. You'll be pressured to make a decision but should not until you have absolutely no hesitation about doing so.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Everyone is, to some degree, addicted to suffering — even you. Be aware of the signs that are sending to someone near that it's OK to vent frustrations on you. When it's no longer OK with you, he or she will stop.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** The stars support you in developing a rich fantasy world. Liberate your imagination. If you don't keep a journal, this is the day to start. Write as though you never intend another soul to read it.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Procrastination is a self-imposed limitation that undermines your finances, love life and personal goals. You'll feel like giving in to distraction and excuses. Have someone you respect hold you to your word.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You're entrusted with an important decision because others see you as

wise and just. Money tip: Use any extra funds you have to buy, fix or manufacture something you can resell.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** The sensual elements of life pop out at you in vivid detail — a sign of your improved health.

Since you're the resident bon vivant, teach loved ones how to either prepare or appreciate a fine meal.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** The stars offer you a sense of oneness — the only caveat being you must drop your need to be a "special" case. Seeing the similarities instead of differences between people is helping.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You're recognizing new emotions. Your feelings for a certain earth sign (Taurus, Virgo or Capricorn) are somewhere between tender affection and romantic attraction. Beware of a sharp-throated woman.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** From the outside, life looks much as it did yesterday, but internally, you're different. Brilliant thoughts are likely to pop into your mind during an evening activity, such as taking a shower or brushing your teeth.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Education is highlighted — not the days you were in school, though. While someone else was engaged in formal learning, you were taking lessons at the school of hard knocks. Both ways are valid. Give yourself credit.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Let nothing stop you from exploring now. You may find that despite your brio and wit you are unable to sway loved ones to join you. Some journeys are better traveled alone.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You'll engage in your own version of building sand castles. Endeavors that are beautiful because of their temporal nature please your intellect. However, this does not inhibit vivid conversations that go nowhere.

Meridian Syndicate

## Pronunciation of 'poinsettia'

My wife and I call those beautiful red and white flowers that so wonderfully symbolize Christmas "poinsett-as." Our know-it-all college freshman daughter, however, insists that our pronunciation is wrong, and that we should be saying "poinsett-ee." Well, I don't know anyone who says "poinsett-ea" and I feel funny saying "poinsett-a" like you help?

Yes, there are commentators who, like your daughter, decry the "ea" pronunciation of "poinsettia" and consider acceptable only the "tee" pronunciation, which, of course, more accurately reflects the word's spelling. But

you're right: the "ee" pronunciation is at least as common as the prescribed pronunciation, and in fact appears to be the choice of most current speakers.

We also have abundant backing for a pronunciation in which a "t" is added to the first syllable, making it sound like "point."

According to our evidence, all of these variations are established, and you shouldn't feel at all funny saying "poinsett-a" — most other people are saying it too.

This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition. Readers may send questions to Merriam-Webster's Wordwatch, P.O. Box 281, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

# anarchism of van turns into war of words with neighbors

**Dear Abby:** I may have started a war with my neighbors.

About two months ago, their son, "Ricky," smashed a brick on my van while it was parked in my driveway. The damage was estimated at more than \$500. I asked Ricky's parents to pay for it because I had paid them \$100 a few months before, after I accidentally ran over his bicycle in the driveway. They didn't have to ask for the money — I volunteered it.

When I told my neighbors about the damage, they refused to pay, saying my daughter had gotten their boy upset over a game they were playing. They said I should take them to court — so that's exactly what I'm doing.

After they were served with the court papers, they called my boss and complained that I had cut them off while driving my company vehicle, a school bus. It was an outright lie. Things are starting to get out of hand. Am I wrong for wanting my van fixed?

— Frustrated in Canada  
*Dear Frustrated:* Of course not. If you haven't already done so, speak to your boss immediately and explain exactly what is going on. Then inform the police

about the boy's act of vandalism to your van. You didn't start a war. Your neighbors did when they refused to make good on the damage their son caused.  
P.S. Now that you know the kid is trouble, keep your daughter away from him.

## Dear Abby

**Dear Abby:** I am a 14-year-old girl who recently found out that I am the daughter of a sperm donor. I had always thought my father had died and no one would tell me why. Now I feel loved by whoever is my father.

It scares me to think I may have brothers or sisters out there, and he may not care that I exist. I don't understand why it's legal to just donate when a child may be born. Is there any way I can find out anything about my "real" father — or any advice you can give me?

## — Doesn't Understand in Pennsylvania

*Dear Doesn't Understand:* The person who donated his sperm so that you could be conceived thought he was doing a noble deed — helping a couple who desperately wanted a child but were unable to do so. As far as I know, there is no way to trace his identity.

# Son's wife far too attached to her family to be good spouse

**Dear Annie:** Three months ago, our son married a 34-year-old girl, "Lena." Lena is obsessively attached to her family and is not being a wife to our son. She has refused to consummate the marriage, although she wanted a big wedding and professed to love him.

Lena drives to her parents' house every day on her way to work and does breakfast with them. She stops back with lunch. She usually goes there on the weekends as well and talks to her mother constantly on the phone. She even showers and does her laundry at her parents' home.

It seems to me that Lena cannot accept the fact that she is married and has new responsibilities. She has cooked only three meals in three months. My son buys all the groceries and has cooked all the other meals.

Lena seems desperately enmeshed with her family, and they are allowing her dependence on them to grow. Our son is no longer the fun, outgoing person he used to be. He is dreadfully sad. We see little hope for this

marriage, but he continues to believe that somehow Lena will change.

— Desperate Parents  
*Dear Parents:* We know how hard it is to see your child unhappy. We also assume your son is confiding in you because you know a great many intimate

details about his marriage. Nonetheless, you need to step aside. The best thing you can do for your son is urge him to seek counseling with or without Lena, and decide if the marriage can be improved, and if not, what the best course of action would be.

Whatever he chooses, please be supportive without judging his situation or his wife.

**Dear Annie:** As a Catholic, I have been baffled by the hand-shaking that goes on during Mass. I always have found it unhygienic to shake hands with others, and then with those same hands receive communion.

However, since the 1960s is upon us, our church has suggested that instead of shaking hands, parishioners wish their neighbors peace verbally. I'm hoping to bring this idea to my Church to adopt this new idea permanently. It's much safer and healthier.

**Dear Abby:** I am a 30-year-old woman who was recently widowed. Although my new status is painful, I feel that because I am no longer married, I may take back my maiden name. My dilemma stems from the fact that I receive a pension from my husband's company, and others have told me that if I don't consider myself married, that I shouldn't accept this pension.

Are they right? Is this disrespectful to my deceased husband? Am I being selfish? I don't want to upset my in-laws. Hurtling and disrespecting anyone is the last thing I want to do.

— Confused in Ohio  
*Dear Confused:* As a widow, you are entitled to call yourself either by your married name or your maiden name.

The choice is yours. As a widow, you have a right to receive your husband's pension benefits until they run out. I don't know who gave you the bad advice you repeated to me, but that person is mistaken. To accept the money and go on with your life is neither selfish nor disrespectful.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69404, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.earthlink.net/~dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

## — Trying To Be a Good Neighbor on the East Coast

Dear East Coast Hands Together: A tremendous number of germs, although the act of shaking someone's hand provides a sense of community and bonding that a verbal expression cannot match.

Parishioners who are concerned about getting sick this way should take up the matter with their parish priest.

**Dear Annie:** My fiancé and I are planning the guest list for our wedding. We both come from huge families, and the list is already quite large. We are in our 30s, and many of our friends already are married with children.

We would like to limit the children to immediate family only. Please suggest a tactful way to notify the other guests that children are not allowed.

— A Fretful Fiancee  
*Dear Fiancee:* If the children's names are not on the invitation, it means they are not invited. Those who indicate they wish to bring their children anyway should be told, "Sorry, but we are following the invitation to the immediate family only."

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sauer, longtime editors of Ann Landers. Please e-mail your questions to [annie@mailbox.comcast.net](mailto:annie@mailbox.comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate







## JAPAN TV (BILINGUAL, SPORTS, MOVIES AND MUSIC)

## SAT, JAN. 1

**Morning**  
8:30 Japan Year Industrial  
Exhibition Eiden (marathon)

**Afternoon**  
12:00 Hawaiian Skins Game (42)  
12:30 Japan Emperor Cup Soccer  
Highlights (1)

**Evening**  
1:00 Tokyo Verdy vs. Jubilo  
Iwata (1)

4:05 U.S. Movie (2001): Sous le  
sable (145)(42)

6:00 News (1)

7:30 French-U.S. Cuban Movie (1999):  
Vieja y el Club (155)(42)

8:30 Japanese Music: 2005 New Year  
Concert at Vienna Festival Hall  
(conductor Lorin Maazel)(3)

10:00 Overseas Drama: Shackleton (1)

12:30 Africa's 100 Years (42)  
12:30 U.S. Movie (1999): Three Kings  
(155)(42)

1:00 U.S. Movie (1940): Cover Girl  
(155)(12)

3:30 U.S. Movie (2001): All (4)

3:30 U.S. Movie (1946): Gilda (200)(12)

## SUN, JAN. 2

**Morning**  
7:00 The St. Hakone Eiden (marathon)  
relay (4)

**Afternoon**  
12:05 Japan Senior High School Soccer  
Highlights (1)

12:15 Japan Senior High School Soccer:  
Semifinals (12)

12:30 Japan Senior High School Soccer:  
Final (12)

## WOWW

## SAT, JAN. 1

**Evening**  
6:00 U.S. Movie (1989): Ghostbusters  
Alone (145)

7:50 U.S. Movie (1947): Gentlemen's  
Agreement (235)

**Afternoon**  
2:05 U.S. Movie (1999): Ben-Hur (3:35)  
5:40 U.S. Movie (1992): A League of  
Their Own (230)

**Evening**  
8:00 New Zealand Movie (2002): The  
Lord of the Rings: The Return  
of the King (235)

4:40 U.S. Movie (1960): The Apartment  
(210)

## SUN, JAN. 2

**Morning**  
6:00 U.S. Movie (1974): The Towering  
Inferno (250)

## JAPAN TV (BS1/NHK SATELLITE) (BILINGUAL AND SPORTS)

## SAT, JAN. 1

**Morning**  
11:50 CNN News

**Afternoon**  
12:10 Figure Skating GP Series High-  
lights: Skating in Canada

**Evening**  
7:10 Emperor's Cup Soccer Tourna-  
ment: Final - Tokyo Verdy vs. Jubilo  
Iwata

11:50 CNN News

12:10 NFL: Best Games (1) - New Year  
Eve Patriots vs. Pittsburgh  
Steelers

3:30 NFL: Best Games (2) - Dallas Cow-  
boys vs. Seattle Seahawks

## SUN, JAN. 2

**Morning**  
6:10 Figure Skating GP Series High-  
lights: NHL Trophy - Pairs

11:50 CNN News

12:10 NFL: Best Games (1) - New Year  
Eve Patriots vs. Pittsburgh  
Steelers

3:30 NFL: Best Games (2) - Dallas Cow-  
boys vs. Seattle Seahawks

## JAPAN TV (BS11/NHK SATELLITE) (BILINGUAL, SPORTS, MOVIES AND MUSIC)

## SAT, JAN. 1

**Morning**  
8:00 U.S. Movie (1964): My Fair Lady  
(257)

**Afternoon**  
7:10 Japanese Philharmonic Orchestra  
concert: New Year Concert (conductor  
Lorin Maazel)

12:30 Overseas Drama: New Year  
Concert: The Even Chance (4)(42)

2:35 Ray Charles Forever (1)

## SUN, JAN. 2

**Morning**  
7:00 NHK News

**Evening**  
7:00 NHK News (6)

8:10 Japan College Rugby: Semifinal  
Highlights (42)

7:00 NHK News (1)

7:50 Japan College Rugby: Semifinal  
Highlights (2)

10:00 Overseas Drama: Shackleton (2)

2:30 Japanese Music: 2005 New Year  
Concert at Vienna Festival Hall  
(conductor Lorin Maazel)(3)

11:30 Ultimate Fighting: K-1 (8)

12:30 Japan Senior High School Soccer  
Highlights (42)

2:10 U.S. Movie (2000): The Replace-  
ment (6)

2:30 U.S. Movie (1999): Galaxy Quest  
Concert (6)

2:30 British-Canadian Movie (1990): Si-  
mone (155)(12)

2:30 Hong Kong Movie (1996): The  
God of Cookery (8)

4:15 U.S. Movie (1994): Men of War  
(145)(12)

5:00 Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra  
concert (6)

**Morning**  
10:00 Classical Music: 2005 New Year  
Concert at Vienna Festival Hall  
(conductor Lorin Maazel)(3)

**Afternoon**  
12:30 Classical Music: 2005 New Year  
Concert at Vienna Festival Hall  
(conductor Lorin Maazel)(3)

**Evening**  
12:30 Classical Music: 2005 New Year  
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7:00 NHK News (1)

8:10 Japan College Rugby: Semifinal  
Highlights (42)

7:00 NHK News (1)

7:50 Japan College Rugby: Semifinal  
Highlights (2)

10:00 Overseas Drama: Shackleton (2)

2:30 Japanese Music: 2005 New Year  
Concert at Vienna Festival Hall  
(conductor Lorin Maazel)(3)

11:30 Ultimate Fighting: K-1 (8)

12:30 Japan Senior High School Soccer  
Highlights (42)

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(145)(12)

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(conductor Lorin Maazel)(3)

12:30 Classical Music: 2005 New Year  
Concert at Vienna Festival Hall  
(conductor Lorin Maazel)(3)

2:30 Italian Movie (1956): Il Ferroviere  
(230)(6)

**WED, JAN. 5**

**Morning**  
12:30 Japan Senior High School Soc-  
cer Highlights (42)

12:30 CS: Crime Scene Investigation  
(12)

1:30 Japan Senior High School Soccer  
Highlights (42)

4:30 Japan Senior High School Soccer  
Highlights (42)

7:00 NHK News (1)

7:50 Japan Senior High School Soccer  
Highlights (42)

10:00 America's Top 40 (42)

2:05 Japan Senior High School Soccer  
Highlights (4)

**THU, JAN. 6**

**Morning**  
8:45 Between the Lions (3)

7:30 Disney (12)

1:30 U.S. Movie (1966): Fly Away  
Home (200)(12)

3:55 Japan Senior High School Soccer:  
Semifinals (42)

5:00 News (6)

**Evening**  
7:00 News (1)

9:00 French Movie (2000): Taxi2  
(155)(12)

10:30 News (1)

11:00 America's Top 40 (42)

2:30 Best Hits U.S.A. (10)

10:00 U.S. Movie (2002): Confessions  
of a Dangerous Mind (157)

**Afternoon**  
12:00 TV Series: Angels in America #2  
10 Canadian-Spanish Movie (2003):  
Mi vida sin ti (148)

3:00 U.S. Movie (2002): White Clean-  
ed (154)

**Evening**  
6:00 U.S. Movie (1957): In the Heat  
of the Night (154)

8:00 German-British Movie (2002):  
The Hitman (150)

9:00 TV Series: Dawson's Creek  
10:00 TV Series: CSI: Crime Scene Inves-  
tigation (15)

10:00 British-British Movie (2002):  
Ten Minutes Older: The Trumpet (150)

11:40 Jazz Film: Al Dimola

**THU, JAN. 6**

**Morning**  
7:30 Oswald #13

8:00 French-U.S. Movie (2002):  
Femme Fatale (157)

10:00 U.S. Movie (2002): Confessions  
of a Dangerous Mind (157)

12:00 TV Series: Angels in America #3  
10:00 U.S. Movie (2002): Enough (250)

**Evening**  
12:00 South Park #103  
3:45 Fox Boxing: 2004 Best Fight High-  
lights (15)

5:45 U.S. Movie (2002): The Land Be-  
fore Time II: Journey to the Big  
Water (125)

**FRI, JAN. 7**

**Morning**  
12:00 TV Series: Angels in America #4  
1:00 U.S. Canadian Movie (2002): The  
Man Who Cried (138)

3:00 U.S. Movie (1999): Random  
Hearts (215)

**Evening**  
12:15 CNN News

12:15 CNN News

12:15 CNN News

12:15 CNN News

12:15 CNN News

## FRI, JAN. 7

**Morning**  
7:30 Disney (12)

**Afternoon**  
2:00 Japan Senior High School Rugby:  
Final (42)

3:45 Japan Senior High School Soccer  
Highlights (42)

5:00 News (6)

**Evening**  
7:30 News (12)

9:00 Football Match (42)

9:00 U.S. Movie (1996): The Mummy  
Concert (21)(42)

10:00 News (6)

3:40 CBS Documentary (6)

3:40 U.S. Movie (1980): Phantoms (8)

3:40 U.S. Movie (1984): The Woman in  
Red (27)(12)

3:40 U.S. Movie (1998): The Extreme  
Adventure of Super Dave  
(132)(10)

**SAT, JAN. 8**

**Afternoon**  
12:00 Japan Senior High School Soc-  
cer Semifinals (4)

1:00 Traditional Arts of Japan: Dance  
(23)(7)

2:05 Japan Senior High School Soccer:  
Semifinals (42)

4:30 Between the Lions (3)(3)(7)

7:00 News (1)

8:00 Hong Kong Movie (2001): Shaolin  
Sword (15)(18)

12:30 News (1)

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## AFN - KOREA

## SUN, JAN. 2

**Morning**  
6:30 NCAA Football: Rose Bowl - Michigan vs. Texas  
10:00 Headline News  
10:30 NFL Football: Tostitos Fiesta Bowl - Utah vs. Pittsburgh

**Afternoon**  
1:30 The Three Stooges  
2:00 Gilligan's Island  
2:30 The Simpsons  
3:00 Motocross  
3:30 Ebert & Roeper  
4:00 NFL Snackdown  
5:00 Andromeda  
6:00 Headline News  
6:30 ESPN News  
7:00 Judging Amy  
8:00 Movie: Men in Black II  
9:30 The Simpsons  
10:00 Headline News  
10:30 Scrubs  
11:00 Meet the Press  
12:30 America's Black Forum  
12:30 Access Hollywood  
1:30 ESPN News  
2:30 The NFL Today  
3:00 NFL Football: Pittsburgh Steelers at Buffalo Bills

## MON, JAN. 3

**Morning**  
6:00 NFL Football: Indianapolis Colts at Denver Broncos  
9:30 Little Bear  
9:30 Wheel of Fortune  
10:00 Dr. Phil  
11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show

**Afternoon**  
12:30 Headline News  
12:30 Judge Judy  
1:00 Access Hollywood  
1:30 Guiding Light  
2:00 General Hospital  
3:00 Larry King Live  
4:00 Mucha Lucha  
4:30 Mary Kate & Ashley  
5:00 Jeopardy!  
5:30 Headline News  
6:00 ESPN News  
6:30 Advisory Block  
7:00 60 Minutes  
8:00 Without a Trace  
9:00 24  
10:00 Pacific Report  
10:30 Tonight Show  
11:30 David Letterman

12:30 Access Hollywood  
1:00 Headline News  
1:30 The Late Late Show  
2:30 Dennis Miller  
3:30 Keith Olderman  
4:30 Entertainment Studios  
5:00 NFL Monday Quarterback  
5:30 Headline News

## TUE, JAN. 4

**Morning**  
6:00 Good Morning America  
8:00 Play with Me Sesame  
8:30 Bear... Big Blue House  
9:00 4 Quarters  
9:30 NCAA Football: Nokia Sugar Bowl - Auburn vs. Virginia Tech

**Afternoon**  
1:30 Guiding Light  
2:00 General Hospital  
3:00 Larry King Live  
4:00 All Grown Up  
4:30 Teen Kids News  
5:00 Jeopardy!  
5:30 Headline News  
6:00 ESPN News  
6:30 Advisory Block  
7:00 Smallville  
8:00 Movie: The Others  
10:00 Pacific Report  
10:30 Tonight Show  
11:30 David Letterman  
12:30 Access Hollywood  
1:30 The Late Late Show  
2:00 Headline News  
2:30 Dennis Miller  
3:30 Keith Olderman  
4:30 Entertainment Studios  
5:00 Jeopardy!  
5:30 Headline News

## WED, JAN. 5

**Morning**  
6:00 Good Morning America  
8:00 Play with Me Sesame  
8:30 Bear... Big Blue House  
9:00 4 Quarters  
9:30 NCAA Football: FedEx Express Bowl - Oklahoma Sooners vs. USC Trojans  
1:30 Guiding Light  
2:00 General Hospital  
3:00 Larry King Live  
4:00 The Fairy Oddparents  
4:30 24  
5:00 Jeopardy!  
5:30 Headline News

## Evening

6:00 ESPN News  
6:30 Advisory Block  
7:00 The Parkers  
7:30 Arrested Development  
8:00 Extreme Makeover  
9:00 Lost  
10:00 Pacific Report  
10:30 Tonight Show  
11:30 David Letterman  
12:30 Access Hollywood  
1:30 The Late Late Show  
2:30 Dennis Miller  
3:30 Keith Olderman  
4:30 Entertainment Studios  
5:00 ESPN News  
5:30 Headline News

## THU, JAN. 6

**Morning**  
6:00 Good Morning America  
8:00 Play with Me Sesame  
8:30 Bear... Big Blue House  
9:00 4 Quarters  
9:30 Wheel of Fortune  
10:00 Dr. Phil  
11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show

**Afternoon**  
12:30 NBC News  
12:30 Judge Judy  
1:00 Access Hollywood  
1:30 Guiding Light  
2:00 General Hospital  
3:00 Larry King Live  
4:00 Rock's Modern Life  
4:30 NBA Inside Stuff  
5:00 Jeopardy!  
5:30 Headline News  
6:00 ESPN News  
6:30 Advisory Block  
7:00 Two and a Half Men  
7:30 Will & Grace  
8:00 Desperate Housewives  
9:00 C.S.I.: Crime Scene Investigation  
10:00 Pacific Report  
10:30 Tonight Show  
11:30 David Letterman  
12:30 Access Hollywood  
1:30 Headline News  
2:30 Dennis Miller  
3:30 Keith Olderman  
4:30 Entertainment Studios  
5:00 ESPN News  
5:30 Headline News

## FRI, JAN. 7

**Morning**  
6:00 Good Morning America  
8:00 Play with Me Sesame

8:30 Bear... Big Blue House  
9:00 Clifford the Big Red Dog  
9:30 Wheel of Fortune  
10:00 Dr. Phil  
11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show

## Afternoon

12:30 Judge Judy  
1:00 Access Hollywood  
1:30 Larry King Live  
2:00 General Hospital  
3:00 Kids Next Door  
5:00 Jeopardy!  
5:30 Headline News  
6:00 ESPN News  
6:30 Advisory Block  
7:00 King of the Hill  
7:30 That '70s Show  
8:00 Fear Factor  
9:00 Wheel of Fortune  
9:30 The Simpsons  
10:30 Tonight Show  
11:30 David Letterman  
12:30 Access Hollywood  
1:30 Headline News  
2:30 Dennis Miller  
3:30 Keith Olderman  
4:30 Entertainment Studios  
5:00 Good Morning America

## SAT, JAN. 8

**Morning**  
6:00 Clifford's Puppys Days  
8:00 All Grown Up  
8:30 Powerpuff Girls  
9:00 Darryl Phinnum  
9:30 Drake & Josh  
10:00 The Mummy  
10:30 Operation Junkyard  
11:00 Radio Free Roscoe  
11:30 American Adventure

## Afternoon

12:00 NBA Basketball: Miami Heat at Portland Trail Blazers  
2:30 ESPN News  
3:00 WWE Raw  
4:00 Headline News  
4:30 Navy/Marine Corps News  
5:00 Access Hollywood  
6:00 Headline News  
6:30 ESPN News  
7:00 George Lopez  
7:30 Half & Half  
8:00 C.S.I.: Crime Scene Investigation - Miami  
9:00 Law & Order: SVU  
10:00 Headline News  
10:30 Saturday Night Live

## Judge: Bobbitt not to blame for fight

John Wayne Bobbitt has been acquitted of charges that he battered family members after the discovery of a sex toy in his bedroom.

In finding Bobbitt innocent of domestic violence, a Las Vegas judge ruled Monday that Bobbitt's 14-year-old stepson was to blame for the August fight.

Bobbitt gained fame in 1993 when his first wife, Lorena, sexually mutilated him.

Monday's trial focused on a scuffle involving Bobbitt's stepson and the boy's mother, Joanna Ferrell, who is Bobbitt's wife of three years. Bobbitt, 37, had faced four misdemeanor battery counts.

Witnesses testified the teen became enraged after finding the sex toy. He began throwing things around the living room until Bobbitt confronted him.

After the acquittal, Municipal Court Judge Pro-Ten Gary Law reprimanded Bobbitt for failing to attend court-ordered anger management classes after a 2003 domestic violence conviction, and said Bobbitt would suffer serious repercussions if he failed to show up for his remaining 23 weeks of classes.

## 'Battleship Potemkin' gets new airing

A newly reconstructed version of the 1925 Soviet silent classic 'Battleship Potemkin,' featuring shots cut from the original, will premiere at the Berlin Film Festival in February.

The film now includes the original's Russian graphics and the opening words of revolutionary Leon Trotsky, which were cut in "one of the most spectacular cases of censorship in the 1920s," a festival statement said Wednesday. No complete print of the original film survived, it said.

"Battleship Potemkin," directed by Sergei Eisenstein, dramatizes the mutiny on the Russian ship and its role in inspiring a failed 1905 uprising against the czar's regime. It is perhaps best known for the "Odessa steps" sequence, in which a child in a stroller rolls down a staircase as fighting rages around it.

Germany's federal film archive and the British Film Institute supported the reconstruction, which was supervised by Enno Patalas, festival organizers said.

The movie — with live musical accompaniment from the German Film Orchestra Babelsberg — will be shown Feb. 12 and Feb. 13. The festival runs Feb. 10-20.

## Boxing referee Lane honored

Former judge, boxing referee and TV personality Mills Lane was honored near the site of a Reno, Nev., justice center that will be named for him.

"One thing we all know is, we love Mills Lane," Rep. Jim Gibbons said Tuesday. "We remember those good days."

Lane, 67, who suffered a stroke near three years ago, took part in the ceremonies, but did not speak. His son, Terry, said it was just his father's second public appearance since the stroke.

The ceremony took place in the existing court building next to the site of the future Mills B. Lane Justice Center. Lane formerly served as Washoe County district attorney and district court judge.

He officiated 102 championship fights, including the 1997 heavyweight match in which Mike Tyson bit off a piece of Evander Holyfield's ear. Lane was also a TV judge from 1998-2001.

## Contestants to begin 'quest for Ken'

If winning more than \$2.5 million wasn't enough, "Jeopardy!" whiz Ken Jennings will have a shot at winning an additional \$2 million — but the competition will be tougher this time around.

A "Super Tournament" will pit Jennings in a final match against two survivors of a competition among nearly 150 past five-time winners, producers of the game show announced Tuesday.

Host Alex Trebek called the tournament the "quest for Ken."

"Ever since Ken started his amazing run, people have been speculating on how some of the past 'Jeopardy!' players would do against him," Trebek said in a statement. "We're answering that question."

Jennings earned \$2,520,700 after a 74-game winning streak.

## Exploring the body with 'Sesame Street'

"Sesame Street" characters have gone around the globe and into space, and soon they'll be exploring the human body.

Sesame Workshop, a nonprofit educational organization, is creating a series of museum learning experiences and "Sesame Street Presents: The Body" is first up. It will premiere at the Arizona Science Center in Phoenix in May and run through November.

The exhibit will emphasize scientific investigation and developmental- and curriculum-based learning goals for children ages 2 to 8.

Stories and photos from wire services

# Exposed

## The truth behind Hollywood legends.

PARADE Magazine — the most widely read magazine in America — has teamed up with Stars and Stripes to provide you with the hottest news from Hollywood every Sunday, in Walter Scott's Personality **PARA**.

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Jennings



## AM WEEKLY RADIO

## JAPAN — KANTO

**EAGLE 810**  
**Morning (Sun)**  
 7:05 Religious Programming  
 9:00 Eagle 810 Sunday Brunch (Smooth Jazz)  
**Afternoon**  
 12:00 American Country Countdown  
 9:00 A Prairie Home Companion  
**Evening**  
 6:00 Focus on the Family  
 7:00 Travel Radio  
 7:00 Dr. Laura  
 8:00 Radio Street Caravan  
 9:00 Pure Gold (Oldies)  
 12:00 2-Rock (Alternative/Mon-Fri)  
 12:00 Sports Overnight America  
 4:00 NPR's Talk of the Nation Live (Tue-Fri)  
 6:00 NPR on the Media (Mon)  
 5:00 NPR Live on Earth (Mon)  
**Morning (Mon-Fri)**  
 6:00 Eagle 810 Morning Show (Contemporary)  
 7:00 Paul Harvey News and Commentary  
 7:20 Pacific Report  
 7:24 Paul Harvey Rest of the Story  
 7:28 Eagle 810 News  
 7:30 Zama Commander's Corner (Sat 1st Friday)  
 8:00 Zama Commander's Corner (Sun & 4th Fri)  
 10:00 WFSZ Chiefs' Corner (3rd Friday)  
 12:00 Retro Café (70s, 80s, 90s)  
**Afternoon**  
 12:00 Pacific Report  
 12:07 Paul Harvey News and Commentary  
 12:30 Air Force Radio News  
 2:00 Top 40 Music  
 3:00 Traffic Jam (Current Chart Hits)  
 3:05 Pacific Report  
 4:07 AFN Sportspage  
 4:12 Paul Harvey Rest of the Story  
**Evening**  
 6:00 from the Bench Live Sports (Wed)  
 7:00 NPR's Morning Edition LIVE  
 7:00 Yokusaka Commander's Corner (1st & 3rd Thursday)  
 8:00 Rush Limbaugh  
 9:00 Pacific Report (Urban); Mon/Country; Tue/Pure Gold (Oldies); Wed/Rock & Blues (Classic Rock); Thu/The Touch (Urban); Fri  
 12:00 2-Rock (Alternative)  
 12:00 Sports Overnight America  
 4:00 NPR's Talk of the Nation Live  
**Morning (Sat)**  
 6:00 NPR's All Things Considered LIVE  
 8:05 Car Talk  
 9:00 Kim Komando  
 10:00 Classic Rock  
**Afternoon**  
 4:00 2-Rock Beats Weekly Top 40  
 4:00 2-Rock (Alternative)  
**Evening**  
 6:00 Hot Jazz Saturday Night  
 7:00 The Touch (Urban)  
 8:00 2-Rock (Alternative)  
 2:00 Sports Overnight America  
 5:00 NPR's All Things Considered  
**POWER 1575**  
**Morning (Sun)**  
 12:00 NPR's All Things Considered

8:00 Rush Limbaugh  
 9:00 Parent's Journal  
 10:00 Chef's Table  
**Afternoon**  
 11:00 Sports Overnight America  
 4:00 Pure Gold (Oldies)  
**Evening**  
 7:00 Hot AC  
 10:00 The Touch (Urban)  
 12:00 The Touch (Urban)  
 1:00 Pure Gold (Oldies)  
**Morning (Mon-Fri)**  
 6:00 Morning Air Strike  
 6:30 Paul Harvey News  
 7:10 Horsepower  
 7:30 Inside Hawaiian Radio News  
 8:30 Rest of the Letterman  
 8:35 David Letterman/Leno  
 9:00 Country Call Up  
 10:00 Bright AC/Golden Oldies (Fri)  
 11:00 Urban Assault  
 12:00 2-Rock/Colden Oldies (Fri)  
 2:00 The Afterburner  
 2:30 Inside Hawaiian Radio News  
 2:34 Rest of the Story  
 2:36 Pacific Report  
 3:30 Paul Harvey News  
 3:40 AFN Sportspage  
 4:00 Departure Time  
**Evening**  
 6:00 NPR: Fresh Air  
 7:00 The Touch Show (Mon/Old School Thu)/The Mosh Pit (Fri)  
 12:00 Adult Rock  
 3:00 Country  
**Morning (Sat)**  
 6:00 Pure Gold (Oldies)  
 10:00 Soundbarrier  
**Afternoon**  
 2:00 Rick Deck's Weekly Top 40  
**Evening**  
 6:00 NPR's All Things Considered  
 7:00 The Jim Rove Show  
 8:00 The Touch  
 12:00 2-Rock  
 5:00 Hot Jazz

## JAPAN — MISAWA

**THE EDGE - AM 1575**  
**Morning (Sun)**  
 12:00 2-Rock  
 2:00 Classic Rock  
 4:00 Hot AC  
 6:00 Sam Donaldson  
 9:00 Religious  
 9:00 Oldies  
 10:00 Hot AC  
**Afternoon**  
 12:00 2-Rock Beats Weekly Top 40  
 12:00 AC Country  
 9:00 2-Rock (Alternative)  
**Evening**  
 6:00 Prairie Home  
 7:00 2-Rock (Alternative)  
**Morning (Mon-Thu)**  
 12:00 2-Rock  
 2:00 Classic Rock  
 4:00 Sports Overnight America  
 5:00 Rush Limbaugh

6:00 Matt in the Morning  
 9:00 Hot AC  
**Afternoon**  
 12:00 Classic Rock  
 3:00 Ed's of Our Knowledge  
**Evening**  
 6:00 Country  
 8:00 R&B  
 10:00 Hot AC  
**Morning (Fri)**  
 12:00 2-Rock  
 2:00 Classic Rock  
 4:00 Sports Overnight America  
 5:00 Rush Limbaugh  
 6:00 Matt in the Morning  
 9:00 Flashback  
 11:00 Hot AC  
**Afternoon**  
 12:00 Classic Rock  
 3:00 Inside The Line  
 3:00 That Country Show  
**Evening**  
 6:00 Classic Rock  
 8:00 R&B  
 10:00 Hot AC  
**Morning (Sat)**  
 12:00 2-Rock  
 2:00 Classic Rock  
 4:00 Hot AC  
 6:00 Oldies  
 8:00 Car Talk  
 9:00 Saturday Retro  
**Afternoon**  
 12:00 Rick Deck  
 3:00 Australia Music  
 5:00 Kim Komando  
**Evening**  
 6:00 Jim Rove  
 7:00 2-Rock  
 9:00 Hot AC

## JAPAN — SASEBO

**THUNDER RADIO 1575**  
**Morning (Sunday)**  
 12:00 Top 40  
 4:00 Soft Hits  
 12:00 Religious Programming  
 10:00 Focus on the Family  
 10:00 The Environmental Show  
 11:00 Sports Traveler  
**Afternoon**  
 12:00 American Country Countdown  
 2:00 Top 40  
 4:00 Classic Rock  
 9:00 2-Rock  
**Morning (Mon-Fri)**  
 12:00 Soft Hits  
 3:00 Oldies  
 6:00 Rush Limbaugh  
 6:00 Morning Drive  
 9:00 Sports Blythe  
 7:00 Rush Limbaugh  
 8:00 NPR's Morning Edition  
**Morning (Sat)**  
 12:00 2-Rock  
 12:00 American Country Countdown  
 2:00 Top 40  
 4:00 Classic Rock  
 9:00 Top 40

**Morning (Saturday)**  
 12:00 Top 40  
 4:00 Classic Rock  
 7:00 All Things Considered  
 7:00 Ed's of Our Knowledge  
 8:00 Country  
 10:00 Car Talk  
 11:00 DJ Top 40 Show (live)  
**Afternoon**  
 12:00 Rick Deck  
 4:00 Sports Overnight America  
 4:00 Australia Music  
**Evening**  
 6:00 Classic Rock  
 8:00 Urban

## KOREA

## Thunder AM

**Morning (Sun)**  
 12:00 Country  
 5:00 NPR Weekly Edition  
 7:00 Bright Adult Contemporary  
 12:00 Australia Music  
**Afternoon**  
 12:00 Gloria Radio  
 4:00 Sports Overnight America  
**Evening**  
 6:00 NPR Car Talk  
 7:00 Prairie Home Companion  
 8:00 NPR Weekly Edition Sunday  
 11:00 Country  
**Morning (Mon)**  
 12:00 Country  
 5:00 NPR  
 7:00 Morning Report  
 7:30 This Week with Sam & Cokie  
 8:00 Oldies Radio  
**Afternoon**  
 12:00 Noon Report  
 12:35 News & Views  
 1:00 Dr. Laura  
 2:00 Country  
 3:00 Jim Rove Show  
**Evening**  
 6:00 Evening Report  
 6:35 Sports Blythe  
 7:00 Rush Limbaugh  
 8:00 NPR's Morning Edition  
 10:00 Country  
 11:00 Sports  
 7:00 Morning Report  
 7:30 NPR Market Place  
 8:00 Oldies Radio  
**Afternoon**  
 12:00 Country  
 12:35 News & Views  
 1:00 Dr. Laura  
 2:00 Country  
 3:00 Jim Rove Show  
**Evening**  
 6:00 Evening Report  
 6:35 Sports Blythe  
 7:00 Rush Limbaugh  
 8:00 NPR's Morning Edition  
**Morning (Sat)**  
 12:00 Country  
 5:00 NPR All Things Considered  
 7:00 Oldies Radio

12:00 Country  
 4:00 Sports Overnight America  
**Evening**  
 6:00 Country  
 7:00 Rush Limbaugh  
 8:00 Country  
 9:00 National Public Radio

## OKINAWA

**SURF 648 AM**  
**Morning (Sunday)**  
 6:00 Adult Rock (cont.)  
**Afternoon**  
 7:00 Sports Overnight America (live)  
 8:00 Adult Rock  
 12:00 Ben Maller & Jason Smith — Sports (live)  
 8:00 Adult Rock  
 7:00 Country  
**Morning (Mon)**  
 6:00 Sports Overnight America (live)  
 8:00 Adult Rock  
 11:00 Jim Lamprey (live) Sports  
**Afternoon**  
 12:00 Steve Schlinger  
 1:00 The Dr. Laura Show (recorded)  
 2:00 Adult Rock  
 4:00 The Rush Limbaugh Show (recorded)  
 5:00 Sports Overnight America  
**Evening**  
 7:00 NPR's Morning Edition (live)  
 11:00 Country  
 1:00 The Dr. Laura Show (live)  
 2:00 Country  
**Morning (Mon-Thru)**  
 6:00 NPR's All Things Considered (live)  
 8:00 Adult Rock  
 11:00 FOX Sports  
**Afternoon**  
 12:00 The Jim Rove Show (recorded)  
 1:00 The Dr. Laura Show (recorded)  
 2:00 Adult Rock  
 4:00 The Rush Limbaugh Show (recorded)  
 5:00 Sports Overnight America  
**Evening**  
 8:00 NPR's Morning Edition (live)  
 11:00 Country (live)  
**Morning (Fri)**  
 6:00 NPR's All Things Considered (live)  
 8:00 Adult Rock  
 11:00 FOX Sports  
**Afternoon**  
 12:00 The Dr. Laura Show (recorded)  
 1:00 The Dr. Laura Show (recorded)  
 2:00 Country  
 4:00 The Rush Limbaugh Show (recorded)  
 5:00 Sports Overnight America  
**Evening**  
 8:00 NPR's Morning Edition (live)  
 11:00 Country (live)  
**Morning (Sat)**  
 6:00 NPR's All Things Considered (live)  
 8:00 Adult Rock  
 11:00 FOX Sports  
**Afternoon**  
 12:00 The Dr. Laura Show (recorded)  
 1:00 The Dr. Laura Show (recorded)  
 2:00 Country  
 4:00 The Rush Limbaugh Show (recorded)  
 5:00 Sports Overnight America  
**Evening**  
 8:00 NPR's Morning Edition (live)  
 11:00 Country (live)  
**Morning (Sun)**  
 6:00 NPR's All Things Considered (live)  
 8:00 Adult Rock  
 11:00 FOX Sports  
**Afternoon**  
 12:00 The Jim Rove Show (recorded)  
 1:00 The Dr. Laura Show (recorded)  
 2:00 Country  
 4:00 The Rush Limbaugh Show (recorded)  
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**Evening**  
 8:00 NPR's Morning Edition (live)  
 11:00 Country (live)  
**Morning (Sat)**  
 6:00 NPR's All Things Considered (live)  
 8:00 Adult Rock  
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 2:00 Country  
 4:00 The Rush Limbaugh Show (recorded)  
 5:00 Sports Overnight America  
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 8:00 NPR's Morning Edition (live)  
 11:00 Country (live)  
**Morning (Sun)**  
 6:00 NPR's All Things Considered (live)  
 8:00 Adult Rock  
 11:00 FOX Sports  
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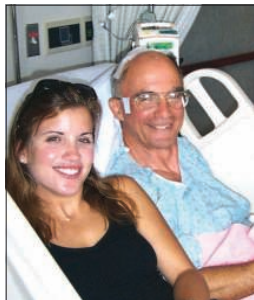






## RELIGION

# 'Passion' essay challenged interfaith ideas



COURTESY OF GOLDHIRSH FAMILY/AP

Elizabeth Goldhirsh sits with her late father, Bernie Goldhirsh, Elizabeth, heiress to a magazine fortune, created a religious essay contest for young people to counter the negative debate surrounding the film "The Passion of the Christ."

BY LOUISE CHU  
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Shuffling between classes at Emory University's Candler School of Theology, Adam Meredith-Ployd saw an intriguing opportunity to apply what he'd learned in his studies on the history of Christians and Jews — an opportunity worth \$25,000.

Following Mel Gibson's film "The Passion of the Christ," which drew criticism that it contained destructive Christian stereotypes of Jews, an essay contest had been founded to promote understanding between the two faiths.

"It highlighted a conflict that can be invisible in a lot of ways," said Meredith-Ployd, a 22-year-old Christian graduate student whose essay took the top award last month. "I think what 'Passion' brought out is there's still residual issues between Christians and Jews that are 2,000 years old."

The contest's founder, 25-year-old magazine heiress Elizabeth Goldhirsh, said she created the competition for people 16 to 22 in the wake of the movie; the aim was to try to develop some interfaith unity within the younger generation.

"Unfortunately, we've grown up with

so many leaders on TV using religion for very negative purposes," said Goldhirsh, who is Jewish. "When you think about other religions, you think about conflict rather than what brings everyone together."

Goldhirsh, a Harvard Divinity School graduate student and daughter of the late Inc. magazine founder Bernie Goldhirsh, said she offered a large prize package — a total of \$100,000 was awarded, making it one of the most lucrative writing contests in the nation — to attract interest in the issue.

The strategy worked. Four thousand entries came in, though what they showed was a surprising lack of familiarity with building interfaith relationships in general, said the Rev. Christopher Leighton, executive director of the Baltimore-based Institute of Christian & Jewish Studies and one of the contest's judges.

The problem, Leighton said, was that many of the entrants — particularly Christians — thought the answer was to make the other side see the error of its ways, rather than to promote respect for differing theological points of view.

Organizers found that many of the entrants "haven't developed the ability to

cross a border to comprehend the religious sensibilities of their neighbors," Leighton said. "The essay contest confirmed how much work needs to be done."

That finding doesn't surprise Eboo Patel, founder and executive director of the Chicago-based Interfaith Youth Core, one of the only interfaith groups in the nation focused on young people.

Patel said he's been working to raise awareness of interfaith issues through high school religious forums and national volunteer days that bring together young people of different faiths to do community service projects. The movement is "in its total infancy," but "the U.S. is going to have to come to terms with being a multifacial society," he said. "It is an enormously sensitive area," said Patel, a Muslim. "People's relationship with God is the single most precious thing that they have."

In the contest-winning essay, Meredith-Ployd found common ground in Christians' and Jews' view of time, based on the Bible's account of the seven-day creation of the world in Genesis.

"At the heart of both these ethics is the resounding declaration that God's reality is not the world's reality," Meredith-Ployd wrote.

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# Amid turbulence, Buckeyes blow out Cowboys

The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Justin Zwick hardly looked like a quarterback who had been on the bench for more than two months.

Zwick replaced suspended starter Troy Smith and threw for 189 yards and a touchdown in his first action for Ohio State since Oct. 16, and Ted Ginn Jr. and Lydell Ross each scored Wednesday night as the 24th-ranked Buckeyes defeated Oklahoma State 33-7 in the Alamo Bowl.

Zwick, who lost the starting job to fellow sophomore Smith after the sixth game of the season, completed 17 of 27 passes despite a mild hamstring pull.

The Buckeyes went 3-3 under Zwick before he injured a shoulder in a loss to Iowa. Smith stepped in and led Ohio State (8-4) to victories in four of its last five regular-season games.

But Smith was suspended for the Alamo Bowl by the team last week after university officials said he accepted an unspecified gift

## Bowl roundup

from a team booster — a violation of NCAA rules.

Ohio State coach Jim Tressel declined to talk about what's next for the football program, which has been marred this season by a series of arrests and allegations by former star player Maurice Clarett that players routinely took cash gifts from boosters.

"I'm happy for the team and excited for the future," Tressel said.

Ginn, a freshman with dazzling speed, caught six passes for 78 yards and rushed for 40 yards and a touchdown. Ross rushed for 99 yards on 12 carries, and Mike Nugent kicked four field goals to become Ohio State's career scoring leader.

Ohio State took advantage of two early turnovers, then stifled the Cowboys (7-5). Oklahoma State quarterback Donovan Woods completed 15 of 34 passes for 137 yards and rushed for 80 yards. Vernand Morency, who entered the game eighth in Di-

vision I-A rushing with 1,474 yards, was limited to 24 yards on eight carries.

"We could not move the football or protect our passer effectively," Cowboys coach Les Miles said.

**Colorado 33, UTEP 28:** In Houston, Joel Klatt threw for 333 yards and two touchdowns and Mason Crosby kicked four field goals to lead Colorado in the Houston Bowl.

Klatt keyed a fourth-quarter comeback by the plodding Buffaloes (8-5), who overcame a 28-19 deficit against a team that entered the game ranked eighth in the nation in scoring offense.

Colorado's first bowl victory since the 1999 Insight.com Bowl capped an improbable turnaround for the Buffaloes, who went through an off-season of scandal and turmoil.

Jordan Palmer, the younger brother of former Heisman winner Carson Palmer of Southern Cal, completed his first eight passes for 120 yards as UTEP (8-4) raced out to an early 14-3 lead.



Ohio State freshman Ted Ginn had 78 yards receiving, 40 yards rushing and one touchdown to lead Ohio State's 33-7 victory on Wednesday night.

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# It was all-around banner year for Kadena

BY DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

The name Kadena became synonymous with championships in 2004. Be it the largest Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Pacific high school or the biggest Pacific Air Forces base's interservice teams, titles seemed to find their way to Kadena Air Base in droves.

Kadena High's Panthers racked up a record four DODDS Far East titles in four sports in a six-month span.

The base's interservice football team took the inaugural Okinawa Football League crown. And a softball team composed primarily of Air Force players won two of four Pacific Grand Slam legs, led by one PACAF Athlete of the Year and two players selected to the All-Air Force team.

## Kadena High: Home of champions

To hear some of the Panthers stars say so, Kadena High's four Far East champion teams shared two common denominators: superior depth and expectations.

"We expected to do it in those sports," said junior Anthony Soroka of Kadena's Far East champion tennis and boys soccer squads. "We expect to do it in everything else. We want to show that we can do it in everything."

The presence of so many championship banners in the high school gym — Kadena boasts 20 Far East team titles — serves as a motivator, Soroka said. "When you see all those banners, you have those high expectations and you hold yourself to that," he said. The Panthers' championship run began April 30. Kadena's boys soccer team edged Okinawa island-rival Kubasaki 2-1 in one Far East Class AA final at Yokota Air Base, while at nearby Camp Zama, the Panthers' girls shut out Kubasaki 2-0.

Depth played a major role in the championships, junior Niki Kaulzarich said. "We had great starters, but it was the overall team," she said. "The bench would give you the same effort as the starting players."

The roll continued in the fall when Kadena repeated its Far East cross country title and won its first Far East tennis team

## Local sports 2004

championship. Panthers runners won every award there was to win. Kaulzarich and senior Jon Turner captured the 3.1-mile individual races, Kadena won the team relay and placed eight runners on the All-Far East team.

Then came tennis, in which Kadena edged Seoul American for top team honors. Sophomore star Amy Lopes won the girls singles title.

## High school beginnings, continuings and endings

Kadena's cross country and tennis titles came about partly due to one of two major changes in the year DODDS-Pacific conducts its Far East high school tournaments.

Citing concerns over availability of billeting and athletic facilities, DODDS-Pacific's Far East Activities Council began limiting tournament fields in those sports and in wrestling to DODDS teams.

Then last month, FEAC mandated an annual DODDS-Pacific interdistrict football playoff for large schools of 360 students or greater and small schools.

One result of the DODDS-only decision was removing international schools, which had long dominated tennis and cross country, from the Far East mix.

And it helped Pusan American end a 10-year Far East tournament title drought, as junior James Edwards won a boys tennis singles crown.

Amaniam Reiff and Jessica Guertin of South Korea's Osen American captured the girls doubles, Edwards and his sister Mary took the mixed doubles, and Seoul American's Thomas Kim and Allen Chin the boys doubles.

In the final Far East wrestling tournament in which DODDS and non-DODDS schools competed last February, Seoul American won the dual-meet crown for its first Far East mat title. St. Mary's International of Tokyo took the individual freestyle team title.

The football playoff decision means the end of the Rising Sun Bowl All-Japan championship, and paves the way for the All-Star series between Korea and Singapore.

Chris Roach and reigning Pacific island power Yokota ran the on-field winning streak to 48 games, won a sixth straight Japan Football League and Kanto Plain Association of Secondary Schools title and fifth straight Rising Sun Bowl, beating Okinawa's Kadena Islanders 56-0 on Nov. 13.

The verdict renewed calls for Kadena and Kubasaki to field full squads, instead of split squads, in future Rising Sun Bowls. The interdistrict playoff decision means Kadena and Kubasaki will do just that, starting next fall.

The Islanders, led by running back tandem Keith Loving and David McCowan, captured their first outright Okinawa Activities Council championship since 1983 by pounding the Kadena Buccaneers 37-12 in the island final on Nov. 4.



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Aron Zendejas, right, of the Kadena Panthers lines up a shot as Chris Monroy of the Kubasaki Dragons watches during the championship match of the Far East High School Boys Class AA soccer tournament at Yokota Air Base, Japan, on April 30. Kadena won its second straight Class AA title by a 3-1 score over Kubasaki. It was one of four Far East tournament titles won by Kadena between April and November.

Meanwhile, pass-happy Bruce Voelker and Seoul American extended the Far East's second-longest winning streak to 20 games and won its fourth straight Korea football title. The Korea All-Stars avenged a 55-6 loss to Singapore in 2003 by routing the Falcons All-Stars 51-0 at Yongsan Garrison.

In basketball, Seoul American made it two straight Class AA boys titles, as MVP Jake Abramowitz and the Falcons routed Nile C. Kinnick 76-48 in front of a home crowd at Falcon Gym.

Home cooking also agreed with Kubasaki's girls. Coach Bob Driggs came out of a 12-season retirement, and with a back line of Shannon Sumter, Shanae McDaniel and Ka'leen Mathieu, the Dragons won their Pacific-record ninth Class AA title 46-41 over Guam's John F. Kennedy Islanders.

In the Class A boys tournament at Osen Air Base, South Korea, Guam's St. Paul Christian Warriors, led by co-MVP Andrew Borja, survived a two-game final with Japan's E.J. King Cobras, losing the first game 65-63 in overtime before prevailing 60-53 in the deciding game.

And International School of the Sacred Heart, an all-girls school in Tokyo, won its first Far East title in any team sport. Led by sister top players Adena and Alecia Wallingford and floor general Marj Look, the Symbas dominated Osen American 38-35 in the Class A girls hoops final.

## Service spectrum: Yongsan, Yellow Box shine brightly

Few interservice basketball



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

QB Will Hall (11) and the Yokosuka Seahawks won their fifth consecutive USFJFL championship on Sept. 11, defeating the Misawa Marauders 22-0 at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan.

teams have tasted the success the Yongsan Runnin' Rebels of Korea enjoyed last year.

With All-Armed Forces guard Ronald Bartley at the point, Yongsan cruised to a 37-5 record and won all five tournaments it entered, including the Korea-wide Post-Lead in March.

Bartley went on to lead Army to the All-Armed Forces gold medal, then helmed the All-Armed Forces team to a bronze in the International Military Sports Council tournament in Croatia and the gold in the preme Headquarters, Allied Powers Europe championship last month.

On the open tournament circuit, Yongsan overcame The Truth of Okinawa in a two-game final in the Martin Luther King event last January on Okinawa.

In the last major Pacificwide event of the year, Dean Johnson and Guam's Andersen Bombers prevailed over Korea's Kunsan Wolf Pack in the Osen Pacificwide Holiday Tournament in late December.

Yonnes Sanders passed Marine Corps Base Camp Butler to its first Marine Forces Pacific Regional Tournament title in more than 10 years with an 87-64 triumph over 1st Marine Aircraft Wing last April.

Five months later, Wing captured its first Marine regional soccer title, as Samuel "Doc" Ofosuhen scored twice and added an assist in a 4-1 victory over Base.

In August, four-time All-Armed Forces outfielder Gary Chaney hit a sixth-inning three-run home run to carry Okinawa's 3rd Force Service Support Group to the Marine regional softball title 8-7 over Wing.

Wing's Cheryton McRae made the All-Armed Forces men's softball team for the 14th time, and Dexter Avery of Camp Carroll, South Korea, was selected a seventh time. Air Force won the gold in the All-Armed Forces tournament in September at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

Army prevailed over Air Force in the women's All-Armed Forces softball team for the 14th time, with Twyla Sears of Kadena, Jamie Thompson of Japan's Misawa Air Base and Christy Maxwell of South Korea were chosen for the All-Armed Forces team.

Softball's open tournament circuit saw Yellow Box of Okinawa take the torch from Pacific Force as the region's powerhouse.

Pacific Force broke up, after 15 years of being the area's most dominant team, with 39 Pacific Grand Slam titles.

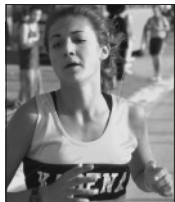
That threw the door open for Yellow Box, with PACAF Athlete of the Year and two-time All-Armed Forces catcher Dexter High and newcomers to the All-Air Force team, outfielder Scotty Roe and shortstop Carlo Agustin.

Yellow Box finished second to Korea's International Guzzlers in the Yongsan Pacificwide tournament. Meanwhile, Dexter High and Yellow Box then won the Firecracker Shootout over the July 4 weekend at Okinawa's Camp Foster, then the Kadena Classic on Sept. 12 at Kadena Air Base.

Interservice football returned to Okinawa in the form of the OFL, composed of four Marine teams, Ryukyu University and the Kadena Dragons. It was the first time since 1989 that military football was played on the island. The league MVP Trent Beavers, with 31 touchdowns, Kadena powered past Schwab 44-14 in the league title game on Dec. 11 at Kubasaki.

Three months earlier, the Yokosuka Seahawks capped a rise from 1-2 halfway through the season to their fifth straight U.S. Forces Japan-Pacific Football League title, led by league MVP Robert Trisby, who caught six touchdown passes.

Rob Roy ran for 158 yards and a touchdown on 16 carries to pace Yokosuka past Misawa 22-0 in the league title game on Sept. 11 at Yokosuka.



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Junior Niki Kaulzarich was part of Kadena High School's Class AA girls soccer and Far East cross country championships.



# 2004: The year sports went to the extremes

2004, FROM BACK PAGE

"Roger just played too good today," Andy Roddick said after losing to Federer in the Wimbledon final. "I threw the kitchen sink at him, but he went to the bathroom and got a tub."

Singh and Federer weren't huge shocks to rise to the top of their sports after their strong play in the past, but to win on the scale they did was extraordinary.

There was far less surprise in seeing Lance Armstrong pedal to a record fifth straight Tour de France. Michael Schumacher won a seventh Formula One title or Kurt Busch capture NASCAR's Nextel Cup in a new championship format.

Nor, despite their advanced age, was there astonishment in seeing Roger Clemens win a record seventh Cy Young award or Barry Bonds join Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron in the 700-homer club while winning a record seventh MVP Award.

Clemens retired from the Yankees, unriveted in a hurry for his hometown Houston Astros, and had one of his finest seasons. Bonds shrugged off a federal grand jury appearance, a thousand questions about steroids and the rest of his personal trainer in the BALCO case, and, at 40, had a career year by anyone's standards.

They, like Ichiro Suzuki, whose record 262 hits broke George Sisler's 84-year-old mark, gave the season a golden hue.

Michael Phelps imposed himself in such a way at the Athens Olympics, winning eight medals, six of them gold and none a surprise. If Phelps didn't quite match Mark Spitz's record haul of seven individual golds in 1972, he still ruled the pool as no other man since then.

Morocco's Hicham El Guerrouj, the world's greatest middle-distance runner, elevated the Games by winning the 1,500 gold after failing twice before, then added the 5,000 — a double that hadn't been accomplished since Paavo Nurmi did it in 1924.

Argentina pulled the upset of the Games, winning the gold in men's basketball while the humiliated U.S. team, booed in Greece and lambasted at home, settled for bronze.

It was a year to take pleasure in the overachievement of little Saint Joseph's, No. 1 in the men's basketball poll, and to cheer for Smarty Jones, the Seabiscuit of our times. Smarty Jones won millions of fans in his bid for the Triple Crown, and they loved him still even when he came up a length short in the Belmont.

Witnessing Peyton Manning eclipse Dan Marino's season TD passing mark — 48 in 1984 — has been a wonder to watch, especially seeing him doing it with poise and calm and not the phony celebrations that some players have displayed to grab attention. "I thought 48 was something no man would touch or get close to," Marino said.

We needed all those good times to get us past the embarrassments, scandals and violence that permeated the sports landscape.

## Images of the year: The good, the bad and the ugly

**Switzerland's Roger Federer, right, won three Grand Slam tennis events and Fiji's Vijay Singh, below, won 10 golf tournaments, including the PGA Championship.**

AP photos



**Indiana Pacers' Ron Artest, right, triggered a brawl in the stands at Detroit last month that was as frightening as anything seen in sports. NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman, below, is presiding over a lockout that is threatening to erase an entire season.**

AP photos



**While BALCO founder Victor Conte, above, fought off accusations of distributing steroids to elite athletes, Barry Bonds, right, joined the 700 home run club.**

Janet Jackson's "wardrobe malfunction" in the Super Bowl halftime show, exposing her right breast to an audience of 90 million, brought a wave of condemnation, but more serious matters blew through the seasons.

After 15 years of denials, Pete Rose admitted to betting on baseball and his own Cincinnati Reds, but he remained banned from the



**Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning, above, broke Dan Marino's 20-year-old record for touchdown passes in a season. Manning has 49 entering the regular-season finale on Sunday.**



game and ineligible for the place that would otherwise surely be his in the Hall of Fame.

There were the allegations of rapes and sexual favors for football recruits at the University of Colorado, which made far more of a splash when they came out than when they were dismissed as unfounded.

There was the sexual assault

case against Kobe Bryant that was nightly news until the prosecution dropped the charges when his accuser said she did not want to participate in the trial. The 26-year-old Los Angeles Lakers star has said the sex was consensual, but the woman is pursuing damages in a civil case.

Meanwhile, nothing has slowed down Bryant on the court, not

even his feud and split with Shaquille O'Neal, the departure of coach Phil Jackson, and a Lakers lineup that is a shadow of what it once was.

Hockey wasn't even a shadow. The NHL was shut down, possibly for the 2004-05 season and beyond, when team owners locked out the players to press their demands for a salary cap.

The BALCO investigation, which began the summer before last, goes on still, with recent allegations by the company's founder that he was secretly juicing up the world's fastest couple, Marion Jones and Tim Montgomery, among others in the Olympics, baseball and the NFL.

"It's embarrassing to baseball," one player, Jeff Kent, said of the continuing steroid saga.

For all the sensationalist headlines and federal grand jury leaks, baseball attendance stayed high, except in Montreal, which lost the Expos to Washington, D.C., the first team to move since the Senators became the Texas Rangers in 1971.

The Athens Olympics were also unfazed even as steroids touched the Games from the start, when the top two Greek runners, Kostis Kenteris and Katerina Thanou, faked a motorcycle accident to avoid drug testers. Two dozen athletes got busted for drugs — more than twice the number at Sydney four years earlier — yet that was hailed as a success.

"These were the Games where it became increasingly difficult to cheat and where clean athletes were better protected," IOC chief Jacques Rogge said during the closing ceremony.

They were also the Games that saw Mia Hamm, perhaps the most influential woman in sports since Billie Jean King, retire after leading the U.S. women's soccer team to a gold medal. And they were the Games that saw American Paul Hamm win gymnastics gold when the judges miscalculated the score of a South Korean rival.

Agreeing on a winner continued to elude college football, which once again had a split national championship when Southern California won one trophy and LSU another. And more argument loomed as the year ended, with three teams from major conferences — Southern Cal, Oklahoma and Auburn — undefeated going into the holiday bowl games.

There were more player-fan confrontations in sports, from baseball to basketball, none uglier than the Malice in the Palace between several Indiana Pacers and fans of the Detroit Pistons.

Ron Artest, the first player in that brawl to charge into the stands after a drink was thrown at him, had wanted time off to promote his CD. Now he has the rest of the season off.

Artest became the symbol of sports' ills, a man in a suit in a suit, corrupted by too much money, too many untamed egos, too much alcohol. Still, sports are society's escape and a reflection of its values. They have the power to raise aspirations, change lives and cut us down to size, and they did all that this year perhaps more than ever before.



# Conquest: Sox go from goldrums to deirirum

CONQUEST, FROM BACK PAGE

"I just want to get some kids up here!" activities coordinator Lisa Scherber shouted as the patients, too young to understand, watched their parents pose for pictures with the prize. "We've got a lot of adults."

The World Series trophy has been a much-welcomed and well-traveled guest this offseason. And how it got to be that way is the sports story of the year, according to a vote by the newspaper and broadcast members of the Associated Press.

Boston's first World Series title since 1918 and the unprecedented comeback against the Yankees that made it possible was a runaway winner with 108 first-place votes and 1,325 points.

Lance Armstrong's sixth straight Tour de France title (seven first-place votes, 785 points) finished second and the Indiana Pacers-Detroit Pistons brawl was third (six first-place votes, 662 points).

The New England Patriots' Super Bowl victory and 21-game winning streak was next (zero first-place votes, 498 points), followed by sports' steroid stories (eight first-place votes, 495 points).

Merely winning the Series after an 86-year drought probably

would have been enough to make the Red Sox the year's top story.

But the way they did it was one for the ages.

After falling five outs short of the World Series last year and firing their manager because of it, the Red Sox acquired Curt Schilling, the top starting pitcher on the market, and Keith Foulke, the top reliever.

Their pursuit of Alex Rodriguez — a deal that would have involved unloading Nomar Garciaparra and Manny Ramirez — ended late in 2003. But before spring training got started the reigning AL MVP went to the hated Yankees — thanks in part to the groundwork the Red Sox had done.

It seemed like Boston would be New York's runner-up once again. The Red Sox played 500 ball for most of the year, prompting general manager Theo Epstein to trade Garciaparra for shortstop Orlando Cabrera and spare parts Dave Roberts and Doug Mientkiewicz.

But the regular season was, as expected, merely the undercard for a Red Sox-Yankees playoff rematch; for the seventh consecutive year, Boston finished second to New York in the AL East.

The only indication that things might be different this year was that the Red Sox won 11 of 19 meetings between the teams during the regular season — Boston's



Boston's improbable triumph this fall got plenty of attention outside the sports world.

first edge in the season series since 1999.

Boston swept Anaheim in the first round, with designated hitter David Ortiz — "Papi" — hitting a clinching homer in the 10th inning of Game 3. But the Red Sox just as quickly fell behind the Yankees 3-0 in the AL championship series.

No major league team had rallied from a 3-0 deficit to even tie a seven-game series, let alone win it. But the Red Sox, self-proclaimed "idiots," insisted they were too stupid to be intimidated by the gravity of their predicament.

Things got more dire when the Yankees took a 4-3 lead into the ninth inning of the fourth game, with star closer Mariano Rivera on the mound. But he walked Kevin Millar and Roberts, pinch running, stole second before Bill Mueller singled to tie it.

Boston won in the 12th on Ortiz's homer, then won Game 5 less than 24 hours later on his 14th-inning single. The series moved back to Yankee Stadium, where the Red Sox ended six disastrous.

The Red Sox sent Schilling to the mound only after season-ending surgery was postponed in favor of a radical and unprecedented procedure to keep him in the rotation. After testing the technique on a cadaver, Dr. Bill Morgan stitched a loose tendon in Schilling's right ankle in place so it wouldn't flop around when he pitched.

With blood soaking through his sock, Schilling beat the Yankees and forced a seventh game. But the only pitcher the Red Sox had left was Derek Lowe, who pitched so poorly in the regular season that he was bumped from the playoff rotation.

Lowe pitched six innings of one-hit ball, Ortiz homered and Johnny Damon hit a grand slam to help Boston open a 10-3 lead — too big even for the Red Sox to blow.

They were going to the World Series.

Their NL opponent was a familiar one: The St. Louis Cardinals had beaten Boston in the 1945 Series and again in '67, both times in seven games. Red Sox fans wondered whether the Series would be a letdown after the emotional victory over the Yankees, and they were right.

The Cardinals failed to put up a fight this time and the Red Sox would soon be celebrating a sweep in Busch Stadium. Millions turned out for the victory parade as it drove through Boston and into the Charles River on amphibious vehicles.

Those who couldn't see the trophy at the "rolling rally" might still get their chance. The Red Sox promise to bring it to every one of the 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts that asks.

If it makes it that long, already, two of the flags on the trophy have come loose and need to be fixed. But the Red Sox can't bring themselves to take it out of commission.

"Just about everywhere I go, people get very emotional. These people have been waiting a lot longer than I have," said Bill Mueller, D-Yankees' clubhouse guard who escorts the trophy on many of its visits.

"It's had a huge impact on people. It's made them feel good."

## Armstrong earns third AP award

BY JIM VERTUO  
The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Even by his lofty standards, Lance Armstrong's return to the mountain-top in 2004 was pretty special.

The question now facing Armstrong is whether he'll return to challenge the Pyrenees and the French Alps again in 2005.

Already recognized as one of the inspiring athletes of his generation, Armstrong took his cycling legacy a step further when he won a record-breaking sixth consecutive Tour de France in July.

And for his accomplishment, he was honored Monday as The Associated Press Male Athlete of the Year for the third straight year.

Armstrong joined Michael Jordan (1991-93) as the only athletes selected by sports writers and broadcasters three straight times since the honor was first awarded in 1931.

"For me it was a special year," Armstrong said. "It's always nice to win the Tour, but this year was special simply because I broke the record and made history."

Armstrong received 51 first-place votes and 312 points.

Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning was second with 17 first-place votes and 156 points.

The voting reflected Armstrong's return to dominating

form in an event in which he separated himself so far from the pack there was little question of the outcome.

In 2003, Armstrong struggled to win his fifth Tour de France, capturing cycling's premier event and one of the world's most grueling sporting events by a mere 61 seconds.

It was also the year he got divorced, and he acknowledged that he struggled to balance the pressures of his personal and professional lives.

Yet the 33-year-old Texan stormed back in 2004 with arguably his best U.S. Postal Service team and his best individual performance on the bike. He won five individual stages and a sixth with a team time trial in France.

"I certainly feel like I recovered my true strengths. I haven't felt as much control of a Tour as this year," Armstrong said.

While other top riders and rivals such as Tyler Hamilton and Jan Ullrich withered during the punishing race, Armstrong powered on.

But as dominant as Armstrong was in France, he has yet to commit to going for a seventh title next year. He promises to race again in the Tour de France before he retires, but won't say if it will be in 2005 or 2006.

Armstrong says he's ready to

pursue other challenges in racing. He has dedicated most of his cycling life to the Tour, leaving little room for such Classic races as the Spanish Vuelta, the Paris-Roubaix or Fleche Wallonne, which he won in 1996 shortly before being diagnosed with testicular cancer.

But he also knows that it's the Tour de France his American fans want to see him win.

"I could win the Tour of Flanders and I wouldn't win AP Athlete of the Year," he said. "Armstrong and his team — which has a new sponsor with the Discovery Channel — will release their schedule in January. Armstrong won't say if he'll race the Tour de France until May."

Whatever his choice, it will be all or nothing. It won't be a case of him riding to help someone else on his team win.

"If I'm going to ride, I'm riding to win. I'm not going to suffer for three weeks not to win," he said. "I've gotten too used to standing on the Champes Elysees at the end of the bike as well. His personal life spilled over onto the celebrity pages with his relationship with rocker Sheryl Crow."

And his Lance Armstrong Foundation, which is dedicated to cancer survivorship programs, got a monumental boost with the popularity of its promotional "Livestrong" yellow wristbands.

## Sorenstam's consistency garners honors once again

BY JIM LITKE  
The Associated Press

She won early and often, and often by overwhelming margins. She won on four continents — in Australia, Sweden and Japan and in six of the 50 United States. She won a major, the most money and a remarkable 10 times in just 20 starts worldwide.

Small wonder then, that what was an average year for golfer Annika Sorenstam was more than good enough to earn her recognition as The Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year for the second year running.

Sorenstam received 40 first-place votes and 263 points.

Diana Taurasi, who led Connecticut to the NCAA women's basketball title and then captured the WNBA's Rookie of the Year award, finished second. She had 15 first-place votes and 154 points, two more than Russian teen tennis sensation Maria Sharapova.

Consistency has been the hallmark of Sorenstam's 11-year career as a pro golfer. Her performance this season wasn't nearly as eventful as 2003, when she won two majors and 11 times on the LPGA Tour, became the

first woman since 1945 to play on the PGA Tour, did a star turn on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" and entered the Hall of Fame. But incredibly, it was every bit as efficient.

Sorenstam began it with a win in the ANZ Ladies Masters on Australia's Gold Coast, making up a four-stroke deficit at the midway point by closing with a pair of scintillating 65s. She ended it by leading Cristie Kerr in a playoff in the ADT Championship, the final tournament on the LPGA calendar, with her only victory that didn't come by multiple shots.

In between, Sorenstam wrote a book, lifted her profile as an endorser and mixed it up with the boys a second time in the Skins Game. She also stayed comfortably atop the world rankings, locked up a fourth consecutive LPGA money title — her seventh in the past 10 years — tied her scoring average record of 68.7 and led the tour in top-10 finishes, rounds under par and greens in regulation.

"Naturally, I'm pleased with my season in many respects," Sorenstam said, "and especially because I've played less tournaments and still won so much."

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## SPORTS

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Teams from Kadena  
dominated local sports  
in 2004, Page 43

# 2004: Trials, tribulations and triumph

## From Sox to scandal, this year was extraordinary

BY STEVE WILSTEIN  
The Associated Press

Score shots, long shots and once-in-a-lifetime shots — 2004 had them all.

It was an over-the-top, out-of-control year, sensational in both its glorious and scandalous senses.

Halley's Comet comes around every 76 years. The Boston Red Sox hadn't won the World Series in 86 years.

Nobody ever won a World Series or even a league championship down 0-3 in games, much less three outs from a sweep.

A gutsy bettor with blind faith in the Red Sox could have made millions plunking down dough on them at that particularly bleak moment when a sweep by their ancient and annual enemy, the New York Yankees, seemed inevitable.

It took a self-proclaimed team of "idiots," undaunted by history or curses, to flip fate around and make 2004 one of the greatest vintage years of sports.

There is no more enduring image of the year — what it took to win and what it meant to those who did — than the bloodstained sock of Curt Schilling. It gave new meaning to Red Sox and belongs in the Hall of Fame.

Stitched to pitch, Schilling inspired his teammates and lifted the suffering generations of Red Sox Nation scattered around the globe. It was a medical miracle, if not a heavenly one, the very opposite of what Boston's many pessimistic fans had come to expect.

The signs at Fenway read "Believe," and millions did, even if they feared down to the last out that something, somehow would go wrong as it always had since 1918.

Yet Schilling delivered and David Ortiz, Manny Ramirez, Jason Varitek, Johnny Damon, Kevin Millar, Orlando Cabrera and the others did the rest, stunning the Yankees and sweeping the St. Louis Cardinals in the

most amazing team comeback in sports.

"All empires fall sooner or later," Red Sox President Larry Lucchino said after the Yankees became the first baseball team to lose a seven-game series after leading 3-0.

"1918 is gone forever," Boston outfielder Trot Nixon said when the Series ended. "We're not going to have to hear about that again."

He was wrong, though in a good way. These Red Sox will fear forever how they broke the so-called Curse of the Bambino.

Roll back the calendar to Jan. 1 and imagine betting on the New England Patriots to win the Super Bowl en route to an

NFL-record 21-game winning streak and the Boston Red Sox to sweep the World Series in the same year. What would you have won if you parlayed those with bets on the starless Detroit Pistons to win the NBA title and the Sunshine State's Tampa Bay Lightning to win the Stanley Cup?

What if, along the way, you ran up the winnings by betting that one school would win the men's and women's Final Four in basketball. No school ever had. Connecticut did.

And what were the odds back then that Vijay Singh would win nine times in the year, become golf's first \$10 million man, and replace Tiger Woods as No. 1 in the world?

Or that Switzerland's Roger Federer, uncoached, would become the first man since 1988 to win three Grand Slam tennis titles?

SEE 2004 ON  
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### AP Story of the year voting

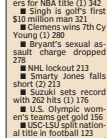
- Red Sox win World Series (108) 1325
- Armstrong wins 6th Tour de France (7) 765
- Pacers brawl with Pistons fans (6) 662
- Patriots' win streak ends (5) 658
- Steroid scandal (8) 499
- Bonds' 700 HRs-TV MVP (2) 419
- Phelps wins 8 medals — 6 gold in Athens (1) 388
- Pistons upset Lakers for NBA title (1) 342
- Singh is golf's first \$10 million man (2) 331
- Clemens wins 7th Cy Young (1) 280
- Bryant's sexual assault charge dropped (2) 278
- NHL lockout (2) 213
- Smarney Jones falls short (2) 213
- Suzuki sets record with 262 hits (1) 176
- U.S. Olympic women's teams get gold 156
- USC-USC split national title in football 123
- Bush wins Nextel Cup (1) 120
- Hamann wins disputed gymnastics gold 114
- Federer wins 3 Grand Slam titles 87
- UConn wins men's & women's NCAA basketball titles 54

First-place votes in parentheses



AP photos

Deion Branch (83) and the New England Patriots celebrated a 21-game winning streak and the team's second Super Bowl victory in three seasons. Lance Armstrong (right), selected as The Associated Press' male athlete of the year for the third consecutive year, became the only six-time winner of the Tour de France in July.



Wisconsin  
stuffs Alabama's  
high-octane  
offense, extends  
home winning  
streak to 36

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LeBron injured in Cavs' loss to Rockets

Page 47



Boston's David Ortiz delivered walk-off hits in Games 5 and 6 of the ALCS.



Curt Schilling's bleeding ankle was stitched into baseball lore when Boston's ace won two playoff games, including Game 6 of the ALCS, after eschewing season-ending ankle surgery.

## Boston's conquest is one for the ages

BY JIMMY GOLEN  
The Associated Press

There was no Commissioner's Trophy last time the Boston Red Sox won the World Series.

No commissioner, in fact. So when the Red Sox won it all for the first time since 1918, they didn't think it would be right to stick their trophy on a shelf somewhere to gather dust.

Instead, they took it to every state in New England, to a fan hangout in California and the team's academy in the Dominican Republic, to Christmas tree lightings and churches and nursing homes, where octogenarians have waited all their lives to see their favorite team win just once.

At the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, where they treat sick children thanks in part to the Red Sox and the Jimmy Fund, the trophy caused such a hubbub when pitcher Tim Lincecum brought it by last week that order, finally, had to be restored.

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Ohio State gets  
a respite from a  
season of turmoil  
in the Alamo Bowl

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